

US to send 1,000 new troops amid Iran tensions

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will send about 1,000 new troops into the Middle East “for defensive purposes,” the Defense Department announced Monday in its third such deployment of forces in

recent weeks as tensions with Iran have increased amid threats and attacks on civilian ships.

Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan announced the new deployment of unspecified military forces into the region as the Pentagon released newly declassified imagery it claims clearly shows Iranian

forces as responsible for simultaneous attacks last week on oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman. The new deployment, requested by U.S. Central Command chief Marine Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, brings the troop surge into the Middle East to some 2,500 additional servicemembers since the White House abruptly announced May 5 that it

was speeding the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a B-52 bomber task force into the region, citing unspecified threats from Iran and its proxy forces.

“The United States does not seek conflict with Iran,” Shanahan said in the Monday statement.

SEE IRAN ON PAGE 6



Pat Shanahan

Shanahan withdraws as nominee

Esper to become acting secretary of defense

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
AND COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump tweeted Tuesday that Pat Shanahan has decided to end his bid to become the next defense secretary, after reports emerged of domestic violence during Shanahan's marriage.

“(Shanahan) has decided not to go forward with his confirmation process so that he can devote more time to his family,” Trump tweeted, adding he was naming Army Secretary Mark Esper to take over as the new acting defense secretary.

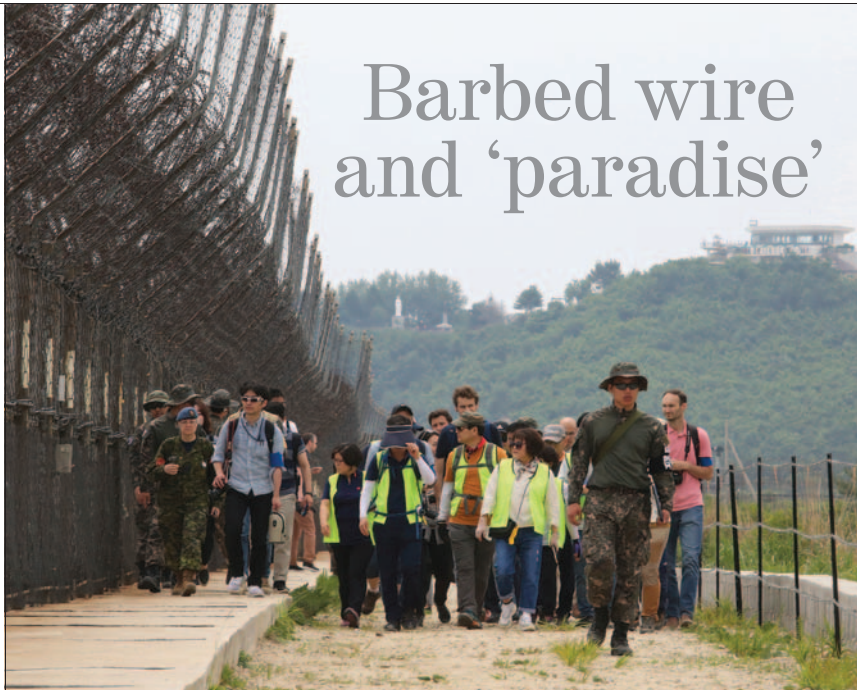
SEE SHANAHAN ON PAGE 7



Subjected to dangerous cleanup, atomic veterans still fighting for benefits

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Aim Young-joon/AP

Hikers and journalists walk along the so-called DMZ peace trail in the Demilitarized Zone in Goseong, South Korea, on Friday. The trail is part of South Korean President Moon Jae-in's efforts to transform the DMZ into a symbol of unity between North and South Korea.

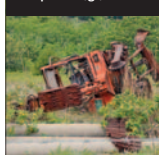
South Koreans hope for peace while hiking new trail inside DMZ

By KIM GAMEL AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

The craggy mountains, glistening lakes and white sand lining the coast of North Korea are still out of reach.

However, many South Koreans have enjoyed a closer view since the government opened a civilian hiking trail in April in a northeastern section of the Demilitarized Zone, a heavily fortified strip of land that divides the Korean Peninsula.

Watch a video tour of the DMZ peace trail at stripes.com/go/dmztrail



The so-called DMZ peace trail is a signature part of President Moon Jae-in's efforts to transform the buffer zone, which has largely been a no man's land since the 1950-53 Korean War, into a symbol of unity despite stalled talks with the communist state over its nuclear weapons program.

“In the past, we couldn't get anywhere near North Korea,” Lee Jeehyun said Friday as she and her husband joined one of the walking tours, which last more than an hour. “But today I feel that reunification is closer than ever. It makes me feel all flutter.”

SEE DMZ ON PAGE 3

EUROPE

Utah-based F-35s take to German skies

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — The skies above Spangdahlem Air Base roared Tuesday with the sounds of F-35s as Utah-based airmen took the Air Force's newest fighter jets on their first extended deployment to Germany.

Pilots from Hill Air Force Base familiarized themselves with the terrain, scoped out nearby airfields and learned about local air traffic patterns Tuesday, about a week after arriving in Germany, said Lt. Col. Richard Orzechowski, 421st Fighter Squadron commander.

The 421st Fighter Squadron received its first F-35A Lightning II fighter aircraft about six months ago and is the latest squadron in the Air Force to fly them. It is deployed here along with airmen from other active duty and reserve units at Hill, including the 466th Fighter Squadron.

The deployment to Germany — the fourth major overseas mission for the airframe — is expected to continue through the summer as part of a European Deterrence Initiative theater security package. F-35s previously deployed to England's RAF Lakenheath in 2017.

The F-35s will train with allies such as Italy and Norway, which already fly the F-35, as well as other fighter aircraft from the U.S. and partner nations.

About 300 people, including 26 pilots, and 12 aircraft comprise the main deployment group, officials said.

The deployment will help identify potential problems, par-

ticularly with communication, that might arise while working with other U.S. and partner-nation aircraft, so that real-world operations are as seamless as possible, Orzechowski said.

For F-35s, which first deployed in combat deployment this spring, working through maintenance issues overseas has been a challenge, particularly the resupply of spare parts in a timely fashion. "We've spent a lot of effort improving upon our experience in Japan back in 2017 and '18," said Col. Michael Miles, 388th Maintenance Group commander. "What we're seeing in both this location and in U.S. Central Command [is] that issues we had previously are no longer there."

"What I see in news reports and other things, is sometimes old data (when) the problem's been solved, and current operations are always better than the news reporting of our issues in the F-35 program," he said.

But there continues to be high demand for parts such as the canopies, lights "and things that you would have expected to last longer," Miles said.

The F-35s deployed downrange, as well as those currently in Europe, have top priority within the Air Force for spare parts when needed, Miles said.

The squadron brought spare parts to Europe and can also tap into Lockheed Martin's global supply chain, Orzechowski said. In addition, "we've worked with some of our partners here in Europe to get some of the items needed to operate," he said.

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Above: Lt. Col. Richard Orzechowski, left, 421st Fighter Squadron commander from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, talks with Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, spokeswoman Capt. Erin Recanzone at Spangdahlem on Tuesday. Left: Two F-35 Lightning IIs taxi before takeoff.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN FERGUSON
Stars and Stripes

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PACIFIC

DMZ: UNC approved plans for 2 more trails

FROM FRONT PAGE

The U.S.-led United Nations Command, which oversees activities in the DMZ, has approved plans for three trails in the DMZ.

So far, only the one in Goseong, which sits in the section that snakes north of the 38th parallel and features a view of North Korea's famous Mount Kumgang, has begun accepting visitors.

Groups of about 20 tourists at a time, escorted by soldiers, walk along a coastal path marked by two rows of tall barbed wire fences cutting off the beach. Signs warn of land mines on the other side.

On Friday, the guide, Park Jeung Hey, rattled off the names of trees and flowers and historical tidbits. Her charges were delighted when a deer appeared nearby before retreating into the trees.

Park noted abandoned railroad tracks along the route.

"You might imagine that you might use this road and the railway to visit Mount Kumgang in the near future," she said.

She later pointed to a tree-covered hill off the coast, saying the abalone and blue mussels in the surrounding waters have thrived because the area has been free from fishermen.

"That island is really a paradise," she said.

Security concerns remain high and photos are permitted only at certain points, including the wreckage of a mangled forklift that was destroyed by a land mine in 2003.

The driver miraculously survived, the guide explained.

Tourists also are invited to hang messages written on green, yellow, orange and white plastic

cards on a sculpture dubbed a tree of hope.

"I wish my one step could become a step for peace," said one. Another expressed hope for peaceful unification.

The DMZ, which is about 2½ miles wide and 155 miles long, has been largely inaccessible to civilians since the war ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

Most South Koreans and foreigners could visit it only via tightly controlled tours to the truce village of Panmunjom, also known as the Joint Security Area, about 35 miles north of Seoul.

Moon and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed to turn the area into a "peace zone," among other goodwill initiatives, during a series of summits last year.

The North has been giving Seoul the cold shoulder in recent months, a side effect of stalled nuclear talks with the United States. But the South Koreans have pressed forward on their side of the border, albeit with a limited scope.

The trail consists of two courses — one by foot and the other by vehicle — and ends at a barricaded gate that has been used in the past by travelers to North Korea's famous Mount Kumgang for reunions of families who had been separated by the war.

A sign declared it to be the northernmost point of South Korea.

Lee Saet-Byeol, of the Goseong district office, said more than 4,300 people have participated in the tours since they began on April 27, coinciding with the first anniversary of the initial summit between Moon and Kim.

Participants must apply via a



ANN YOUNG-JOON/AP

Hikers walk along the DMZ peace trail in the demilitarized zone in Goseong, South Korea, on Friday.

"I feel very lucky to come here today. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. ... This is a place that South Koreans have in their minds."

Lee Saet-Byeol
Goseong district office

website — www.dmwwalk.com — and are selected by lottery for the tours, which are conducted twice a day every day except Monday.

For now, officials said the Goseong tours are limited to South Koreans, with some exceptions, including foreign reporters invited by the government to join the group on Friday.

Park Jangsoon, 52, a businessman from Suwon who brought his wife and 11-year-old daughter on the tour, reminisced about

his days on the front lines with North Korea during his mandatory military service when he was younger.

Park said he's skeptical about Moon's peace efforts, noting past South Korean administrations also engaged in talks with the North Koreans, only to see them fail.

"I believe the government should pursue policies that will carry over to the next generation," he said. "It looks to me like

Moon's policies are the same as those in the past."

Lee and her husband, Chung Eunyoung, said it's important to build trust with the North Koreans.

"I feel very lucky to come here today. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," she said. "I wish more people could visit here. This is a place that South Koreans have in their minds."

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PHOTOS BY KIM GAMEL/Stars and Stripes

South Koreans place wishes for peace on a tree of hope erected on the Goseong DMZ peace trail. About 20 South Koreans participated in the hike Friday.



Above: A sign warns of mines, a reminder of the dangers for hikers on the trail. Below: Tour guide Park Jeung Hey speaks to South Koreans participating in the hike.



PACIFIC

Spokesman: Philippines may invoke US defense pact

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

The Philippines may invoke its mutual defense treaty with the United States if it finds the sinking of a Philippine fishing boat this month was the result of an armed attack by the Chinese, a spokesman for Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte said at a press briefing Monday.

Spokesman Salvador Panelo said the Philippines will invoke the treaty "if it is the right thing to do with that agreement," according to a translated transcript of the briefing.

The treaty calls for the U.S. to support the Philippines if it's attacked by another country, he said.

The Philippines filed a diplomatic protest last week after Filipino fishermen said a Chinese fishing vessel intentionally rammed their boat, the FB Gimver, anchored in Reed Bank on June 9 and left the 22 crew members for dead. A Vietnamese boat rescued the sailors, and the Philippine navy later brought them home.

Also Monday, Duterte himself downplayed the significance of the incident, referring to it as "just a collision of ships," according to a translated transcript of his speech at Naval Base Heraldo Alano in Cavite, Philippines.

Duterte told his audience "not to believe stupid politicians" who want to activate the navy in response to unproven accusations.

"You do not send gray ships



AMBER SMITH/Courtesy of the Department of Defense

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, shown in 2017, is downplaying a collision of Philippine and Chinese ships this month while his spokesman said the country could invoke its mutual defense treaty with the U.S. over the incident.

there. It's just a collision — do not make it worse," he said, according to the transcript.

Reed Bank, about 93 miles from the Philippine island of Palawan, is in the South China Sea and within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, according to a 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague.

Beijing disputes the allegations,

saying the Chinese boat "was suddenly besieged by 7 or 8 Filipino fishing boats" and crashed accidentally into the Philippine vessel while trying to evacuate, the Chinese Embassy in Manila said in a Saturday statement.

"The Chinese captain tried to rescue the Filipino fishermen but was afraid of being besieged by other Filipino fishing boats," the statement said.

In a Friday interview with Philippine broadcaster One News, U.S. Ambassador to Manila Sung Kim said it would be "a very serious situation" if the Filipino fishermen's accusations are verified.

Kim also told One News that "any armed attack on Filipino vessels, Filipino aircraft will trigger our obligations under the Mutual Defense Treaty," and that the treaty covers attacks on Phil-

ippine forces and public vessels.

Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro Locsin Jr. at a meeting Monday of parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea said that "while no sanction is available in international law," the alleged abandonment of the Philippine boat "should be a cause of some concern."

"The incident, to put it diplomatically, highlights the moral and possibly legal — though one wouldn't wager on it — imperative of coming to the rescue of persons in distress at sea," Locsin said, according to a transcript of the meeting.

Both the Philippines and China have launched investigations into the collision, presidential spokesman Panelo said Monday, according to the transcript.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang at a Monday press briefing said China is working with the Philippines to investigate the matter but stressed "this is only an accidental collision between fishing boats."

"It is irresponsible and counterproductive to link this incident with China-Philippines friendship or even make political interpretations out of it," Lu said. "We are ready to enhance communication with the Philippine side on the investigation, increase understanding, dispel mistrust and find out what actually happened."

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Japanese helo rescues US servicemember

Swimmer was swept out to sea at popular diving spot

By CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II and AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

ONNA, Okinawa — A Japanese coast guard helicopter rescued a U.S. servicemember swept out to sea Saturday while swimming at Apogama, a popular but sometimes dangerous diving and swimming spot also known as Mermaid Grotto.

A caller told emergency responders at 2 p.m. that a group of four U.S. servicemembers were pulled away from shore, said Katsuyuki Miyazato, a spokesman for the 11th Regional Coast Guard in Naha.

"We immediately dispatched an AW-139 helicopter and one patrol boat to rescue [them]," he said, adding that three of the swimmers returned the 100 yards to shore on their own.

The helicopter airlifted the remaining 20-year-old from the water back to the coast guard's base station in Naha.

"The servicemember suffered minor scratches, and base security officers later took him back to the base," Miyazato said.

The swimmers' identities and service branches were not known on Tuesday.

A sign posted at Apogama's entrance, written in English and Japanese, warns visitors of the hazardous and unpredictable water conditions and recommends water-related activities be conducted at a safer location of the island.

"The views are the allure of the site," said Matt Lewis, a dive instructor at Marine Corps Community Services Tsunami Scuba since 2014. "Where it becomes dangerous is the way the coral is structured. When the tide is coming in or going out, it can cause significant riptides."

On Saturday, a high seas warning was in effect, with winds reaching close to 14 knots per second.

Lewis canceled all his diving classes Saturday due to the



AYA ICHIHASHI/Stars and Stripes

A U.S. servicemember was rescued by the Japanese coast guard after being swept out to sea at Apogama, or Mermaid Grotto, a popular diving spot on Okinawa.

wind and sea conditions, saying later, "When in doubt, stay out."

In March, a Japanese diver died near Mermaid Grotto. A U.S. sailor died while diving there in 2016.

"I am not saying don't swim in the ocean, but please take a moment to check the sea condition and check the tides before you enter the water," Miyazato said. "Also wear a life vest at all times to avoid the worst case. There have been many water-related incidents among tourists and U.S. servicemembers the last few years."

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Marine reportedly under investigation after car theft, crash

By JAMES BOLINGER and HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — A local Marine is under investigation by Iwakuni police on allegations he stole a car June 7 while drunk and crashed it in a parking lot, according to reports in Japanese media.

An Iwakuni police spokesman confirmed the department is investigating an accident involving a stolen car but has not identified the suspect.

The III Marine Expeditionary Force, in a statement emailed Monday to Stars and Stripes, said it's aware of the incident.

"We are working closely with local authorities and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this time due to the ongoing investigation," the statement said.

According to the Tokyo Reporter website, a gunnery sergeant stole the vehicle from a convenience store parking lot in the Asahimachi area of Iwakuni city after the driver, who works on a base, left her keys in the ignition before stepping inside the store about 11 p.m.

The Marine crashed the car into two other vehicles in an apartment parking lot a half-mile away, the Mainichi Shimbun reported. The Marine was questioned by Iwakuni police, and a breath test measured his blood alcohol content at 0.12%, four times Japan's legal limit, according to the Tokyo Reporter.

The Marine has since apologized to the woman, according to the Mainichi report.

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MILITARY

Camaraderie, coffee at NATO training exercise

By MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

BOCOCU, Romania — A lot goes into preparing soldiers for battle. They need to make sure they have enough ammunition and check if they're missing anything they might need. And sometimes, they need to whip up a batch of smooth, dark espresso coffee.

Sgt. 1st Class Felix Sanchez-Carrera, a paratrooper with the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), was dropped into farm fields in Romania last week with the Folgore, the Italian Army's paratrooper brigade. He's been battling a mock enemy alongside Italian allies.

But in between fighting, without leaving the steaming hot combat zone, he's been living "la dolce vita," thanks to a piece of equipment the Italians took into battle: a portable espresso machine.

"They love espresso," Sanchez-Carrera said. "They have their portable little machines, and they're making it out here in our defensive positions. And it's really good stuff, top notch. I feel bad for all the guys drinking terrible

field coffee."

The Folgore is a mix of infantrymen and engineers.

"They're all airborne, just like us," said Sanchez-Carrera, who is one of a handful of U.S. soldiers attached to the Italian unit during Exercise Swift Response, a U.S.-led mission involving more than 7,000 soldiers from eight NATO allies.

He was selected to work as liaison to the Italians because he can speak a little Italian.

"I'm of Mexican descent, so I can speak Spanish," which made picking up some basic Italian a little easier, he said. "I can order a pizza pretty good in Italian, but I'm getting better the more I'm around these guys."

No one should assume the Folgore are anything less than battle-ready just because they like a good cup of coffee, Sanchez-Carrera said.

"They're professional warriors and they know their stuff," he said. "I feel lucky to be out here with them."

This past weekend, Sanchez-Carrera and the Italians fought a night battle to seize an airfield from a mock enemy played by



PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

An Italian paratrooper sets up a portable espresso maker during Exercise Swift Response in Bobocu, Romania, on Friday.

U.S. forces.

The Italians used a flanking maneuver during the battle, in which one platoon provides cover fire while the other platoon goes into position, said Capt. Valentino Luciano, the company commander of the Folgore.

The Italians learned the maneuver from U.S. soldiers, Luciano said.

"It proved to be a good tactic for the situation."

In the days since, they've fortified the airfield and defended the position against counterattacks.

This week, the Folgore and

Sanchez-Carrera are leaving their espresso-fortified foxholes to prepare for an air assault.

They'll "get dropped into the action, move to contact, look for the enemy and take them out," Sanchez-Carrera said.

Exercise Swift Response is a U.S. Army Europe-directed exercise led by the U.S. Global Response Force.

It's designed to demonstrate U.S. European Command's ability to deploy high-readiness forces to an emergency, while allowing airborne allies to train together.

It's one of several exercises

taking place this summer in the Balkans and Black Sea region in southeastern Europe, where tensions have risen in recent years following the annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014 and the ongoing conflict that ensued in eastern Ukraine.

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Capt. Valentino Luciano, left, the company commander of the Italian Folgore, and Sgt. 1st Class Felix Sanchez-Carrera, of the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), share a laugh Friday.

Soldier killed, another hurt in Humvee rollover in Alaska

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A 25th Infantry Division soldier who had served in Afghanistan was killed in a Humvee rollover during training at the Army's Yukon Training Area in Alaska, the service announced Monday.

Army Spc. Marquise Gabriel Elliott, 25, was initially treated for injuries at the scene after the up-armored Humvee rolled over Friday. He was pronounced dead after he was airlifted to a hospital in nearby Fairbanks, according to a U.S. Army Alaska statement.

One other soldier suffered minor injuries to his legs in the crash but was returned to duty shortly afterward.

Both soldiers were assigned to the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson-based 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

The training center where the incident occurred spans nearly

270,000 acres of eastern Alaska's Fort Wainwright.

The Army was investigating the cause of the rollover as of Monday. Officials did not provide additional information about the incident.

Elliott was from Charlotte, N.C., according to the Army. He enlisted in October 2015 and had been assigned to the 25th ID since April 2016. He was deployed to Afghanistan with his brigade in September 2017, serving eight months there in support of Operation Resolute Support.

He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with combat "C" device for actions during combat on that deployment, according to the Army.

Elliott's battalion commander described the fallen soldier as

"gifted and intelligent."

"His reserved and thoughtful demeanor, disciplined work ethic and commitment to his fellow paratroopers endeared him to all fortunate enough to share time with him," Lt. Col. Tobias Bennett said in a statement.

Elliott was at least the third soldier to die in a vehicle rollover during training in recent weeks.

A Nevada National Guard soldier, Staff Sgt. David W. Gallagher, was killed when a tank rolled over during training at the Ar-

my's National Training Center at Fort Irwin in California on June 4. Two days later, West Point Cadet Christopher J. Morgan, who was expected to graduate next year, died when the 5-ton truck carrying him during an exercise at the U.S. Military Academy's training grounds in New York rolled over.

Those incidents remain under investigation, according to the Army.

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Elliott

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MIDEAST

Iran: Pentagon mum on types of troops who will deploy to the region

FROM FRONT PAGE

"The action today is being taken to ensure the safety and welfare of our military personnel working throughout the region and to protect our national interests."

President Donald Trump, in an interview with Time magazine published Tuesday, said he would send U.S. troops into a war with Iran over nuclear weapons, but he was not so certain he would approve combat operations to protect the international oil shipping routes Iran has threatened to close.

Trump, like his Pentagon and State Department leaders, has blamed Iran for the attacks on tankers last Thursday and on May 12. However, the president told Time that "so far, it's been very minor" contrary to the harsher tones emanating from the defense and state departments.

Pentagon officials remained silent Tuesday about the types of troops they are sending to the Middle East or precisely where the troops would be located. Two Pentagon officials said the troops would not be front-line combat forces, such as infantrymen or special operators, describing them as primarily "force protection."

One of the officials said the troops would bolster intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities in the region and include background support forces, including aircraft maintainers. The officials were not authorized to speak on the matter and requested anonymity.

The previous deployments of troops announced by the Pentagon included Army Patriot missile operators, who provide anti-aircraft and anti-missile capabilities,

as well as engineers and an Air Force fighter jet squadron. The military also extended a deployment of a separate Patriot missile battalion in the region.

Officials at the Pentagon and State Department have said the increased force posture is necessary to protect Americans throughout the Middle East from threats that they have said include planned attacks by Iran-controlled militias. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo blamed Iran this week for a series of recent incidents, including the tanker attacks and an unsuccessful rocket attack that caused an explosion near American troops in Baghdad last month.

Similar attacks occurred in Iraq on Monday and Saturday, according to the U.S. military and The Associated Press reporting from the region. Operation Inherent Resolve said a rocket attack — using the same Katyusha rockets as the May attack — was launched Monday against Camp Taji, about 20 miles north of Baghdad. The AP reported the Saturday attack caused a small fire on an air base north of Baghdad that houses U.S. trainers.

Meanwhile, Pentagon officials have worked to declassify material that they claim rules out any actor besides Iran in the tanker attacks and other security incidents throughout the region in an effort to convince the American public and U.S. allies of Tehran's misdeeds.

The Defense Department released 11 images Monday that it said show an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Gashti Class Patrol Boat approaching the Japanese-owned M/T Kokuka Courageous, apparently to retrieve



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE/AP

Hull penetration/blast damage is seen on the M/T Kokuka Courageous that the Navy says was sustained from a limpet mine attack while the vessel was operating in the Gulf of Oman on Thursday.

one of the unexploded magnetic limpet mines used in the attacks last Thursday.

Pentagon officials said the IRGC forces attempted to retrieve the mine to cover up their involvement in the bombing, but they were captured in the photographs and previously released video from a Navy MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter.

Two Navy explosive ordnance disposal officials said Monday that damage to the vessel displayed in some of the photographs indicated the use of limpet mines, which are magnetic explosives that are typically placed by hand on the hull of a ship. Limpet mines have been in use by numerous navies and other actors since at least World War II.

The EOD officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the matter, said the placement of the mines above the vessel's waterline indicated the attackers did not intend to sink the Kokuka Courageous. The officials said they were not involved in the ongoing investigation into the incident and did not have direct knowledge of the probe.

One of the photos released Monday allegedly shows a piece of the unexploded limpet mine that was left behind on the side of the Kokuka Courageous, according to the Pentagon. An EOD official described the remnants as likely a magnet left behind and explained that, typically, limpet mines would be placed using multiple magnets.

The official said limpet mines can vary greatly in size and can include military-class weapons or improvised explosives. The official said it would be difficult to determine precisely where a limpet mine originated from based solely on examining the device.

Pentagon officials also released an image of what they claimed are members of the IRGC on their boat after removing the mine. It shows about nine people aboard a small vessel that includes a heavy weapon mounted toward the front of the boat. Most of the individuals on the boat appear to be wearing orange life vests.

The Japanese owner of the tanker said Friday that the ship's crew saw flying objects that hit the ship, according to a Washington Post report. The EOD officials did not rule out a projectile as being responsible for the



Taken from a U.S. Navy helicopter, this image shows what the Navy says are members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps removing an unexploded limpet mine from the M/T Kokuka Courageous.



The Navy says this photo shows Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps members after they removed the unexploded mine.

damage shown in the new photographs. However, they said a torpedo would not have caused such damage.

The new photos come one day after U.S. Central Command said Iran-backed Houthis rebels had shot down an American MQ-9 drone on June 6. CENTCOM also said Iranian forces had unsuccessfully attempted to shoot down another Reaper last Thursday as the drone approached the other ship attacked that day in the Gulf of Oman, the M/T Front Altair, which was on fire.

Since last year, when Trump withdrew the United States from the 2015 nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action that Iran reached with world powers, the administration has been imposing sanctions that have strained Iran's economy and have cut into its oil exports.

In response, Iran's leaders repeatedly have threatened to close

the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of the world's oil is transported. Tehran also has threatened to begin enriching uranium closer to weapons-grade levels if European nations don't offer new terms for the nuclear agreement.

Iran has accused the United States of raising tensions in the region, calling American forces a destabilizing presence and designating them a terrorist group. Washington, however, has said its moves are aimed only at protecting its interests and allies in the region.

Trump and officials at the State Department and Pentagon have blamed Iran for the increased tensions, and they have said their goal is simply to force Iran to the bargaining table in an attempt to strike a new nuclear accord.

Stars and Stripes reporter Caitlin M. Kenney contributed to this story. dickstein.corey@stripes.com Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

Attack on Camp Taji causes no US casualties

Stars and Stripes

Rockets that landed inside the perimeter of Camp Taji in Iraq on Monday caused no casualties among coalition or U.S. forces, the U.S.-led Operation Inherent Resolve said Tuesday.

Iraqi Security Forces are investigating the incident, the coalition said Tuesday on Twitter.

The attack on the Iraqi base used by U.S. and coalition trainers, about 20 miles north of Baghdad, involved three Katyusha rockets and landed near an Iraqi air defense unit, two military officials speaking on condition of anonymity told The Associated Press.

The attack was the second in recent days on a military post housing U.S. personnel, the AP reported. On Saturday, an attack caused a small fire on an air base north of Baghdad that houses U.S. trainers.

The attacks come amid rising tension in the Middle East between the United States and Iran.

Last month, a Katyusha rocket landed in Baghdad's Green Zone shortly after the U.S. Embassy there was evacuated, following what Trump administration officials said were indications of increased threats to American personnel and interests from Iran or its proxies in the region.

news@stripes.com

MILITARY

Shanahan: Esper to be acting defense secretary, Trump says

FROM FRONT PAGE

"I know Mark, and have no doubt he will do a fantastic job," Trump tweeted.

Shanahan has been the acting defense secretary since January, after Jim Mattis resigned in December 2018 because of differences that Mattis had with the president over decisions regarding foreign policy, including to withdraw American troops from Syria.

The White House announced in May that the president intended to nominate Shanahan, however the nomination never made it to the Senate for consideration. Trump reportedly has had second thoughts about Shanahan and asked others close to him about other candidates for the job during his recent trip to France, according to an NBC News story.



Esper

The president's tweet comes after several news outlets reported an incident of domestic violence in Shanahan's previous marriage, where he and his then-wife claimed they had been punched by the other, according to a USA Today story. In a statement published by USA Today, Shanahan denied he had laid a hand on his wife and said he had cooperated with law enforcement. He also said his wife was charged with assault against him, but he had the charges dropped "in the interest of my family."

"After having been confirmed

for deputy secretary less than two years ago, it is unfortunate that such a painful and deeply personal family situation from long ago is being dredged up and painted in an incomplete and therefore misleading way as a result of this nomination process," Shanahan said in the statement. "I wish nothing but the best for her and regret that my children's privacy has been violated and they are being forced to relive a tragic situation that we have worked so hard as a family to put behind us."

Esper has been Trump's Army secretary since November 2017, joining the Pentagon after spending several years at Raytheon, a defense contractor for which he was most recently vice president of government relations.

He is a 1986 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West

Point and spent 21 years in the Army, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel before retiring from the Army Reserve in 2007. He served more than 10 years on active duty, including in the 1990-1991 Gulf War and later served in the Virginia and the District of Columbia National Guard before transferring to the Reserve.

Esper holds a master's degree from Harvard University and a doctorate in public policy from George Washington University.

Outside of uniform, Esper has worked at the conservative-leaning Washington think tank The Heritage Foundation, as an adviser to the House Armed Services Committee, as a professional staff member on the Senate Foreign Relations and Government Affairs committees, and as the deputy assistant secretary of defense for negotiations policy during the

George W. Bush presidency.

As Army secretary, Esper has focused on building combat readiness as the service has shifted its focus to prepare for major combat operations in the case of a war with a near-peer power competitor such as Russia or China. He has traveled extensively as the Army's top civilian, visiting troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as throughout Europe, Asia and at installations across the United States.

He has said policies he has implemented — such as cutting mandated classroom and computer-based training requirements — have been driven by soldiers' feedback.

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JULIE WATSON/AP

Navy Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher, shown with his wife, Andrea, has pleaded not guilty to murder in the killing of a wounded prisoner and attempted murder in the shooting of two civilians.

5 Marines, 2 from Navy selected for SEAL's jury

SAN DIEGO — A jury has been selected to decide the fate of a decorated Navy SEAL charged with killing a teenage Islamic State prisoner in Iraq.

Five Marines and two Navy members were chosen Tuesday for the court-martial of Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher. The jury is made up of five enlisted members, including a Navy SEAL and four Marines, a Navy commander and a Marine chief warrant officer.

Gallagher has pleaded not guilty to murder in the killing of a wounded prisoner and attempted murder in the shooting of two civilians from a sniper's perch. Gallagher says disgruntled platoon mates fabricated the charges.

Most of jurors have served in conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The defense rejected several jurors, including the only woman. She's a Marine major who advocates for military sexual assault victims.

From The Associated Press

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NATION

Trump threatens to deport millions starting next week

By JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is threatening on the eve of formally announcing his reelection bid to remove millions of people living in the country illegally.

In a pair of tweets Monday night, Trump said that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement would next week “begin the process of removing the millions of illegal aliens who have illicitly found their way into the United States.”

“They will be removed as fast as they come in,” he wrote.

An administration official said the effort would focus on the more than 1 million people who have been issued final deportation orders by federal judges but remain at large in the country. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to explain the president's tweets.

It is unusual for law enforcement agencies to announce raids before they take place. Some in Trump's administration believe that decisive shows of force — like

mass arrests — can serve as effective deterrents, sending a message to those considering making the journey to the U.S. that it's not worth coming.

Trump has threatened a series of increasingly drastic actions as he has tried to stem the flow of Central American migrants crossing the southern border, which has risen dramatically on his watch. He recently dropped a threat to slap tariffs on Mexico after the country agreed to dispatch its national guard and step up coordination and enforcement efforts.

A senior Mexican official said Monday that three weeks ago, about 4,200 migrants were arriving at the U.S. border daily. Now, that number has dropped to about 2,600.

Immigration was a central theme of Trump's 2016 campaign and he is expected to hammer it as he tries to fire up his base heading into the 2020 campaign.

Trump was to formally launch his reelection bid Tuesday night at a rally in Orlando, Fla. Florida is a state that is crucial to his path back to the White House.

Administration restores some Central American nations' aid

By MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration said Monday it is easing previously announced cuts in hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to the Central American nations of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala but will not allow new funding until the countries do more to reduce migrant flows to the United States.

The State Department said that after a review of more than \$615 million in assistance that President Donald Trump ordered in March to be cut entirely, it would go ahead with \$432 million in projects and grants that had been previously approved. The remaining amount will be held in escrow pending consultations with Congress, it said.

That \$432 million, which comes from the 2017 budget, is being spent on health, education and poverty alleviation programs, as well as anti-crime efforts that many believe help reduce migrant outflows from the impoverished Northern Triangle region. About \$370 million in money from the 2018 budget will not be spent and instead will be moved to other projects, the State Department said.

“Previously awarded grants

and contracts will continue with current funding,” department spokeswoman Morgan Ortugus said. She added that assistance “to help the Northern Triangle governments take actions that will protect the U.S. border and counter transnational organized crime will also continue.”

U.S. officials said the review looked at roughly 700 projects funded with fiscal 2017 money by the United States in the three countries and concluded that a significant number were too far advanced to end them.

Trump's decision in March to cut all direct aid to El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala over the migration issue elicited harsh criticism from Congress. Lawmakers from both parties said the assistance was key to helping improve conditions in the three countries that have contributed to the people leaving.

Lawmakers are also expected to object to the latest announcement, which comes as Trump has ratcheted up pressure on Mexico and its southern neighbors to drastically reduce the numbers of migrants heading to the U.S.

Ortugus told reporters the administration was leaving the door open to future funding but would first have to see progress on migration.



PHOTOS BY REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

Raftsmen carry a load of Corona beer across the Suchiate River near Ciudad Hidalgo, Mexico, on the border with Guatemala on Monday. The arrival of Mexican marines to Mexico's shore appears to have slowed cross-water commerce at the border.

Mexico's crackdown on migrants sends some heading south amid enforcement

By MARIA VERZA
AND CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

CIUDAD HIDALGO, Mexico — Mexico's efforts to slow Central American migration across its territory showed some bite Monday as some people turned around to head south in the face of increased enforcement, while government officials said they would target human smuggling rings.

One government official announced that the 6,000 National Guard members who officials had repeatedly said would be sent to the southern border will actually be distributed across the northern border and other areas as well, while another suggested measures were showing results.

A senior Mexican official, who requested anonymity to discuss negotiations with the U.S., said that three weeks ago, about 4,200 migrants were arriving at the U.S. border daily and that now that number has dropped to about 2,600 per day. The official warned it was too early to draw conclusions from such a small window, but that Mexico was optimistic its measures would work.

On the Suchiate River that forms part of Mexico's southern border with Guatemala, usually bustling cross-water commerce appeared to slow at this border town a day after just a half-dozen marines showed up on the Mexican shore.

Tomas Leyva, 65, a construction worker-turned-pastor from El Salvador, was preparing to board a raft back to Guatemala. Saying he fled his home under threat from a gang, he planned to return later to Mexico via the border bridge and apply for asy-



Soldiers who form part of Mexico's National Guard board a truck to patrol back roads used to circumvent a migration checkpoint in Comitán, Chiapas state, Mexico.

lum at an official immigration control station.

“Now, the situation is more serious, more strict, because the soldiers who were there yesterday weren't there before,” Leyva said. “What they're doing is having an effect because they're detaining a lot of people, but it's not going to stop.”

“There (in El Salvador), they say they're killed by the gringos than by the gangsters.”

Wilmer Guerra, 28, was returning to Guatemala with his 4-year-old son, saying they had been stopped at a checkpoint in Tijuana on Mexico's northern border with the U.S.

Before, people said that “with children we'd be able to pass easily, (but) things got hot in the past week,” Guerra said. He said he would try again when the situation calmed down.

Mexico's government on Monday also highlighted the weekend “rescue” of nearly 800 migrants packed into semitrailers, calling the operation a message that authorities are getting serious about

combating human smuggling.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said more than 150 of the 785 migrants found inside the double trailers of four semis Saturday in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz were children.

“We can't allow human trafficking,” Ebrard said, contending that for many years, it was tolerated by Mexican officials. “We might be experiencing one of the greatest human trafficking situations in the world.”

His comments came as Mexico continued to roll out the deployment on the southern border of members of the new National Guard militarized police force.

Until Monday, Mexican officials had spoken of a deployment of 6,000 to the southern border, but Deputy Foreign Affairs Secretary Maximiliano Reyes said during a news conference in Tapachula that some of those would go to the northern border and about 2,400 would be deployed to southeast Mexico. Of those, 426 arrived in Tapachula on Saturday, he said.

NATION

Trump sells self as rebel for 2020

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump captured the Republican Party and then the presidency in 2016 as an insurgent intent on disrupting the status quo. As he mounts his bid for reelection, Trump is offering himself as the outsider once again — but it's a much more awkward pitch to make from inside the Oval Office.

Trump is set to formally announce his 2020 bid on Tuesday at a rally in Orlando, Fla., where advisers said he aims to connect the dots between the promise of his disruptive first-term candidacy and his goals for another term in the White House. His promises to rock the ship of state are now more than an abstract pledge, though, complicated by his tumultuous 29 months at its helm.

Any president is inherently an insider. Trump has worked in the Oval Office for two years, travels the skies in Air Force One and changes the course of history with the stroke of a pen or the point of a tweet.

"We're taking on the failed political establishment and restoring government of, by and for the people," Trump said in a video released by his campaign Monday to mark his relaunch. "It's the people, you're the people, you

won the election."

That populist clarion was a central theme of his maiden political adventure, as the businessman-turned-candidate successfully appealed to disaffected voters who felt left behind by economic dislocation and demographic shifts. He has no intention of abandoning it, even if he is the face of the institutions he looks to disrupt.

Those involved in the president's reelection effort believe that his brash version of populism, combined with his mantra to "drain the swamp," still resonates, despite his administration's cozy ties with lobbyists and corporations and the Trump family's apparent efforts to profit off the presidency.

"He's still not viewed as a politician," said Jason Miller, Trump's 2016 senior communications adviser. "Voters don't define him by the party label; they define him by his policies and his message of shaking up the status quo in Washington. That's the biggest reason he was able to win blue states in 2016."

Democrats, though, predict Trump won't be able to get away with the outsider branding.

"How can you say: Forget about the last two years, he is an outsider, he is bashing down doors," said Karine Jean-Pierre, a former senior Barack Obama campaign official now at MoveOn.org. "People's lives are harder because of



PHOTOS BY JOHN RAOUX/AP

Supporters of President Donald Trump wait in line hours before the arena doors open for a campaign rally Tuesday in Orlando, Fla.



Anna Connelly, left, and Jeanna Gullett, make camp Monday as they wait to attend the rally for the president.

what he has done as president. Voters are paying their attention and are not going to buy it."

Republicans working with the Trump campaign but not authorized to speak publicly about internal conversations said campaign advisers believe that

Trump is still perceived as a businessman and point to his clashes with the Washington establishment — including Congress, the so-called Deep State and members of his own party — as proof that he is still an outsider rather than a creature of the Beltway.

Helping further that image, Trump advisers believe, is that his main Democratic foils are all career politicians: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, former Vice President Joe Biden and, yes, Hillary Clinton.

"He promised that he'd go to Washington and shake things up, and he certainly has," said Trump campaign manager Tim Murtaugh.

Still, it's not as though Trump is running from Washington. If anything, he's wrapping himself in the trappings and shake things up, and he certainly has," said Trump campaign manager Tim Murtaugh.

Debating impeachment, Democrats have election on their minds

By LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For Democrats, the decisions being made of whether to support impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump are personal, gut-wrenching and, at times, starkly political, with fallout in 2020 and beyond.

Some lawmakers worry impeachment will benefit the president, energizing Trump's supporters and solidifying his campaign, much the way the proceedings against Bill Clinton ended up costing Republicans in 1998.

Others warn that failing to impeach Trump risks deflating

Democratic voters who they need to turn out in 2020.

And still others envision a "nightmare" scenario: The House votes to impeach, but the Senate declines to convict, Trump survives to win a second term and Democrats lose majority control.

The arguments, being made out loud and behind closed doors, show the depth of the discussions among Democrats and could set the party on a path toward — or away — from an impeachment proceeding, with lawmakers and the party's voters anxious to get it right.

"Literally all I get when I get home is, 'Get rid of him. We got to get rid of him,'" said Rep. John

Yarmuth, D-Ky., the chairman of the House Budget Committee, who represents Kentucky's liberal stronghold in Louisville and supports impeachment.

But Democratic Rep. Hank Johnson, a member of the Judiciary Committee from the Atlanta suburbs, is holding back. He's worried impeachment will put his colleagues, including many freshmen, in a tough position that could cost Democrats their majority and leave Congress with no checks on Trump's second term.

"I think we have to pay close attention to what's going on in the 30 or so swing districts. What are those people thinking?" he said. "I'm thinking beyond my district

and I'm thinking beyond the here and now."

While House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says Congress shouldn't impeach or not impeach for political reasons, Democrats acknowledge that political considerations overhang the decision-making.

Nearly 60 House Democrats now favor launching an impeachment inquiry, but many of them come from politically safer Democratic strongholds, not the swing districts that gave Democrats the majority. Pelosi has resisted their push and instead is nudging the House forward on a slow if steady "path," as she calls it, digging into special counsel Robert Mueller's report, investigating

Trump's finances and the running of the government and engaging in court battles with the administration.

"I don't think there's anything more divisive we can do than to impeach a president of the United States, and so you have to handle it with great care," Pelosi said in a recent interview at the Council on Foreign Relations. "It should by no means be done politically."

At the same time, impeachment is nothing but a political process, say those who favor the proceedings, a path for removing the president that's embedded in the Constitution and deliberately placed beyond the reach of the ballot box.

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NATION

Motive sought in Dallas shooting

From wire reports

A gunfire-damaged federal building in downtown Dallas was closed for business Tuesday, a day after an armed man opened fire outside the structure, shooting through the front doors and getting into a gunbattle with officers who he was killed.

Authorities continue to investigate the motive for Monday's attack blamed on Brian Isaac Clyde, 22, of Fort Worth, a military veteran and recent community college graduate.



Clyde

FBI agent Matthew DeSarno said Clyde was discharged from the Army in 2017.

He served as an infantryman from August 2015 to February 2017 and achieved the rank of private first class, according to the Army. Clyde had just graduated from a Corpus Christi community college.

DeSarno said the FBI had not investigated Clyde before the



TOM FOX, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

Parts of an entry at the Earle Cabell federal courthouse in Dallas were shattered Monday after a masked gunman opened fire. Brian Isaac Clyde was killed in a gunbattle with officers.

shooting and he was not on any watch list. Investigators were "aggressively pursuing" his social media presence, the agent said.

Clyde's attack began about 8:40 a.m., and three officers from the Federal Protective Service who were stationed at the Earle Cabell Federal Building confronted him. DeSarno and other officials praised their courage at a news conference.

"But for the actions for the Federal Protective Service officers, this likely would have been a very deadly incident," DeSarno said.

Dallas Morning News photographer Tom Fox saw Clyde fire outside the building on Jackson Street and took photos as the shooting occurred.

An image of the shooter captured by Fox showed the man wearing a balaclava and a heavy vest and carrying a rifle. DeSarno

no said Clyde had more than five 30-round magazines.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is tracing Clyde's assault weapon, DeSarno said.

Fox said Clyde fired from the parking lot across the street toward him, another man, a security guard and a woman who was walking a golden retriever.

The windows in a revolving door and two side doors at one entrance were broken. It was unclear whether Clyde or law enforcement personnel had shot the door.

More than 300 employees were inside the building, which houses federal courts, the U.S. attorney's office for the Northern District of Texas, a passport office and U.S. Marshals Services. Streets around the courthouse will be closed for several days, Dallas

police said.

Dallas police detonated a suspicious device about 10:40 a.m. that was found in the 2003 Nissan Altima Clyde had driven to the courthouse. The blast was strong enough to shake sapling trees blocks away.

The FBI searched Clyde's first-floor apartment in Fort Worth on Monday. It was not clear what they found.

Joyceelyn Mendoza lives in the apartment directly above Clyde's. She said FBI officials removed a large black box from the complex. The FBI also questioned her about her neighbor and what she knew, she said.

"I told them honestly, it smells like marijuana around there most of the time," she said. But Mendoza said other people appeared to live in Clyde's apartment or visit frequently.

Manafort to remain in federal custody

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort has been transferred to a correctional facility in New York but will remain in federal custody while he faces state fraud charges, a Justice Department official said Tuesday.

Manafort, who is serving a federal prison sentence, is waiting to be arraigned after prosecutors in Manhattan unsealed a 16-count indictment that accuses him of giving false information on mortgage loan applications. He was expected to be held at New York City's notorious jail complex, Rikers Island, until the state case is resolved.

But Manafort's lawyers reached out to the federal Bureau of Prisons and raised concerns that his health and safety could be threatened if he was transferred to Rikers Island, the Justice Department official said. They instead proposed that Manafort continue to be held in federal custody and made available to state officials when needed, the official said.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to speak publicly.

Rikers Island has been plagued by complaints of violence for years, and city officials have come under scrutiny for the use of solitary confinement and the mistreatment of mentally ill inmates. Manafort likely would have been held in a facility on the island that houses inmates with high-profile cases who require protective custody.

The Justice Department contacted Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. about the proposal from Manafort's lawyers. The state prosecutors didn't object to the proposal, and the Justice Department "determined to err on the side of the caution" by keeping Manafort in federal custody while the state case plays out, the official said.

Manafort was sentenced in March to serve more than seven years in prison on federal charges in cases brought in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. The charges related to Manafort's years of Ukrainian political consulting work, including allegations he concealed his foreign government work from the United States and failed to pay taxes on it. The state charges in New York were announced just minutes after Manafort's sentencing in Washington.

Manafort's attorney, Todd Blanche, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Manhattan district attorney's office declined to comment.

Harvard revokes admission offer to Parkland survivor

By COLLIN BINKLEY
Associated Press

BOSTON — A survivor of the Parkland school shooting announced Monday that Harvard University withdrew his admission over racist comments he made in a shared Google Doc and text messages nearly two years ago.

In a series of posts on Twitter, Kyle Kashuv shared several letters he received from the Ivy League school first notifying him that his admission offer was being reconsidered in light of the comments and, later, that it was being revoked.

The decision stems from comments that have surfaced online recently and that Kashuv says were shared among friends when he was 16, months before the February 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

Screenshots that have circulated on social media appear to show Kashuv using racial slurs

on Google Docs, an online word processor, and in text messages. The comments include anti-Semitic barbs and repeated use of a slur referring to black people.

Kashuv, now 18, has apologized for the comments and said he didn't remember them until they spread online. In a May 22 statement



Kashuv

on Twitter, as the comments began to spread, he said they were made by a "petty, flippant kid" and not the person he has become.

He later said he made poor choices but bears no real racial hatred.

"We were 16-year-olds making idiotic comments, using callous and inflammatory language in an effort to be as extreme and shocking as possible," he wrote in

his May 22 apology. "I'm embarrassed by it."

Two days later, Kashuv received a letter from Harvard demanding an explanation for the comments, noting that the school reserves the right to withdraw offers of admission for behavior that calls into question an applicant's "honesty, maturity or moral character."

Kashuv told Harvard that he "unequivocally" apologizes and that the remarks don't represent the person he is today. "I take responsibility for the idiotic and hurtful things I wrote two years ago," he wrote in a letter. "I made absolutely no excuse for those comments."

In a June 3 response, Harvard's admissions dean thanked Kashuv for his candor but said the school's admissions committee, which makes the final call on applications, had voted to withdraw his offer.

"The committee takes seriously the qualities of maturity and moral character," William Fitzsimmons

wrote in a letter that Kashuv shared online Monday. "We are sorry about the circumstances that have led us to withdraw your admission, and we wish you success in your future academic endeavors and beyond."

Only rarely do colleges withdraw acceptance offers. Harvard sparked debate in 2017 when it pulled offers from 10 incoming freshmen after they reportedly made racist and sexually offensive comments on Facebook.

While some Parkland survivors have gone on to become prominent advocates of gun control, Kashuv has championed gun rights and the Second Amendment as he pushes for other school safety measures.

Kashuv said he had been planning to take a year off before starting at Harvard so he could continue his work promoting school safety. Now he's "exploring all options," he said, but has missed the deadline for many colleges and already turned down other offers.

NATION

Childhood poverty persists in Southwest, study finds

By MORGAN LEE
Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — The number of children living in poverty has swelled over the past three decades in fast-growing, ethnically diverse states such as Texas, Arizona and Nevada as the nation's population center shifts south and west, a report Monday on childhood well-being shows.

The annual Kids Count report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation found that 18% of the nation's children live in poverty, down from the Great Recession.

But the same advances weren't seen in the Southwest, where many children are Native Americans, Latinos and immigrants who have long faced disadvantages.

"The nation's racial inequities remain deep, systemic and stubbornly persistent," the report said.

"Thirteen million children con-

tinue to live in poverty in spite of the economic growth that we have seen recently, and low unemployment," said Leslie Boissiere, a vice president at the foundation. "In those border states, it's as many as one in five. So you're seeing a higher rate of poverty among children in those states."

The share of children without health insurance increased slightly in 2017, the most recent year studied, but remains near an all-time low at 5%. That was attributed in large part to state Medicaid programs and provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

Since 1990, however, the national rate of childhood poverty has remained unchanged.

The report measured 16 indicators of childhood well-being, from the rate of low birthweights and teen pregnancy to third-grade reading abilities and the prevalence of single-parent families.

Texas' childhood population

swelled by an additional 2.5 million since 1990. The number of children in poverty there increased from about 1.1 million to 1.5 million, according to the foundation.

In Arizona, it rose by 60% to 332,000 children.

In Nevada, the number of impoverished children more than tripled to 125,000 since 1990.

Denise Tanata, executive director of the Children's Advocacy Alliance in Nevada, says the state's relative prosperity sets it apart from other states persistently near the bottom of the childhood well-being rankings, such as Mississippi and Alabama.

"Historically it's been a very old-West mentality: 'Pull yourself up by your bootstraps,'" Tanata said. "We tend to be low in almost every category when it comes to kids and to families. ... We haven't been able to keep up with the population growth and



ALEX SANZ/AP

Volunteers pick up food packages to deliver to homeless families and dependent children in Santa Fe, N.M., last week at the headquarters for Kitchen Angels. The state was ranked last in an annual report on children living in poverty in the U.S.

the changing needs." Boissiere, of the Casey Foundation, said underlying causes of childhood financial stress differ from state to state.

In Texas, about 26% of children live in households where at least one parent struggles to find secure employment.

In New Mexico, which ranked last in the survey, more than 1 in 3 children were in that situation.

A crisis in affordable housing

weighs on families in California, where 43% of children are in families with a high housing cost burden that consumes more than 30% of pre-tax income. The state excels in other measures, with only 3% of children going without health insurance.

Nationwide, the share of children with at least one immigrant parent has doubled since 1990 to 26%, the report found.



ALEX SANZ/AP

Lexy, a therapy dog at Fort Bragg, N.C., pulls off the "puppy dog" eyes look in 2014. New research suggests that domestication led to dogs developing a facial muscle absent in their wolf ancestors.

Scientists peer into puppy dog eyes

By JEREMY REHM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — What's behind those hard-to-resist puppy dog eyes?

New research suggests that over thousands of years of dog domestication, people preferred pups that could pull off that appealing, sad look. And that encouraged the development of the facial muscle that creates it.

Today, poodles use the muscle to raise their eyebrows and make the babylike expression. That muscle is virtually absent in their ancestors, the wolves.

"You don't typically see such muscle differences in species

that are that closely related," said Anne Burrows, of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, an author of the study released Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dogs differ from wolves in many ways, including having shorter snouts, smaller sizes and more expressive faces. Unlike wolves, dogs heavily rely on human eye contact, whether to know when someone's talking to them or when they can't solve a problem, like hopping a fence or getting out the door.

Burrows and her colleagues examined the eye muscles in the cadavers of six dogs and two wolves. They found dogs have a

meaty eye muscle to lift their eyebrows and make puppy dog eyes. In wolves, the same muscle was stringy or missing.

The scientists also recorded 27 dogs and nine wolves as each stared at a person. Pet poodles frequently and intensely pulled back their eyebrows to make sad expressions, while the wolves rarely made those faces, and never with great intensity.

The researchers believe dogs, over their relatively short 33,000 years of domestication, used this eye muscle to communicate, possibly goading people to feed or care for them — or at least take them out to play. People, perhaps unwittingly, obliged.

Preschoolers less pudgy in sign of declining obesity

By LINDSEY TANNER
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Preschoolers on government food aid have grown a little less pudgy, a U.S. study found, offering fresh evidence that previous signs of declining obesity rates weren't a fluke.

Obesity rates dropped steadily to about 14% in 2016 — the latest data available — from 16% in 2010, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported.

"It gives us more hope that this is a real change," said Heidi Blanck, who heads obesity prevention at the CDC.

The results were published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The improvement affected youngsters ages 2 through 4 who receive food vouchers and other services in the federal Women, Infants and Children nutrition program. About 1 in 5 U.S. kids that age were enrolled in 2016.

An earlier report involving program participants the same age found at least small declines in obesity in 18 states between 2008 and 2011. That was the first decline after years of increases that later plateaued, and researchers weren't sure if it was just a blip.

Improvements in food options in that program — including adding more fruits, vegetables and whole grains — may have contributed to the back-to-back obesity declines, researchers said.

Other data show obesity rates in 2016 were stable but similar,

about 14%, for children aged 2 to 5 who were not enrolled in the program, Blanck noted.

While too many U.S. children are still too heavy, the findings should be celebrated, said Dr. William Dietz, a former CDC obesity expert. "The changes are meaningful and substantial."

Dietz said program changes that cut the amount of juice allowed and switched from high-fat to low-fat milk likely had the biggest impact. He estimated that amount

ed to an average of 9,000 fewer monthly calories per child.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends low-fat milk for children. It also suggests kids should limit juice intake and choose fresh fruits instead.

Further reducing U.S. childhood obesity will require broader changes — such as encouraging families and day care centers to routinely serve fruits, vegetables and whole grains, and employers to extend parental leave to make breastfeeding easier for new mothers, said Maureen Black, a child development and nutrition specialist at the University of Maryland.

Studies have shown breastfed infants are less likely than others to become obese later on.

NATION

San Francisco mulls e-cig sales ban

By SAMANTHA MALDONADO

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—San Francisco supervisors are considering Tuesday whether to move the city toward becoming the first in the United States to ban all sales of electronic cigarettes as part of an effort to crack down on youth vaping.

Supervisors will weigh a ban on the sale and distribution of e-cigarettes in San Francisco, as well as ban manufacturing e-cigarettes on city property, until the U.S. Food and Drug Administration completes a review of the effects of e-cigarettes on public health.

If supervisors approve the ban Tuesday, the measures will require a subsequent vote before they become law.

"Young people have almost indiscriminate access to a product that shouldn't even be on the market," said city attorney Dennis Herrera. Because the FDA hasn't acted, he said, "it's unfortunately falling to states and localities to step into the breach."

Since 2014, e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used tobacco product among young people in the country. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the number of middle and high school students who use tobacco products increased by 36% from 2017 to 2018, a rise attributed to the use of e-cigarettes.

FDA spokesman Michael Felperbaum said in a statement that the agency will continue to "tackle the troubling epidemic of e-cigarette use among kids."

This includes preventing youth access to, and appeal of, flavored tobacco products like e-cigarettes and cigars, taking ac-



Joshua Ni, 24, and Fritz Ramirez, 23, vape from electronic cigarettes in San Francisco on Monday. The city's supervisors are mulling a ban on all sales of electronic cigarettes to crack down on youth vaping.

SAMANTHA MALDONADO/AP

tion against manufacturers and retailers who illegally market or sell these products to minors, and educating youth about the dangers of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products," he said.

Leading San Francisco-based e-cigarette company Juul frames vaping as a healthier alternative to smoking tobacco. Juul says it has taken steps to deter kids from using its products. The company said in a statement that it has made its online age verification process more robust and shut down its Instagram and Facebook

accounts to try to discourage vaping by those under 21 years old.

"But the prohibition of vapor products for all adults in San Francisco will not effectively address underage use and will leave cigarettes on shelves as the only choice for adult smokers, even though they kill 40,000 Californians every year," said Juul spokesman Ted Kwong.

The American Vaping Association also opposes San Francisco's proposal, saying adult smokers deserve access to less hazardous alternatives.

Groups representing small businesses also oppose the measures, which they say could force stores to close. "We need to enforce the rules that we have in place already," said Carlos Solorzano, CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco.

Although San Francisco's proposed ban is unlike any other in the country, the Public Health Law Center at Mitchell Hamline School of Law reports that all but two states have at least one law restricting youth access to e-cigarettes.

Marathoner donates his toes to odd cocktail mix

The Washington Post

Nick Griffiths didn't want his toes to go to waste.

Not all of them were going to make it home with him after he had to be evacuated from the Yukon Arctic Ultra by snowmobile in February 2018, suffering from deep frostbite during the 300-mile race. The 47-year-old ultramarathoner from Britain had been slogging through the snow and ice out in the Canadian wilderness for 30 consecutive hours when his hands and feet started to turn raw.

The doctors soon informed him that three of his toes would have to go. Still, a nurse assured him, he didn't really have to lose them, at least not completely. Had he ever heard of the Sourtoe Cocktail she asked.

Griffiths thought it was a whiskey drink. Sort of, the nurse said. It is a shot of whiskey with a mummified human toe dropped inside. And if Griffiths wanted, maybe it could be his toe.

Griffith couldn't pass up the chance to become the main ingredient of one of the world's most disgusting drinking experiences. His toes arrived last week.

People have been venturing to Dawson City's Downtown Hotel to throw back the Sourtoe Cocktail since 1973, when a boat operator found a severed toe in a cabin and thought turning it into a drinking challenge might draw tourists. Since then, Terry Lee, the bar's official "Toe Master," estimates that more than 100,000 people have become members of the Sourtoe Cocktail Club.

In 1st states to legalize pot, teen use triggers concerns

By JENNIFER OLDHAM

Special to The Washington Post

DENVER — The first two states to legalize recreational marijuana are starting to grapple with teenagers' growing use of highly potent pot, even as both boost the industry and reap huge tax windfalls from its sales.

Though the legal purchase age is 21 in Colorado and Washington, parents, educators and physicians say youths are easily getting hold of edibles infused with tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive component that causes a high, and concentrates such as "shatter," a brittle, honey-colored substance that is heated and then inhaled through a special device.

Each poses serious risks to adolescents' physical and mental health. "Underage kids have unbelievable access to nuclear-strength weed," said Andrew Brandt, a Boulder, Colo., software executive whose son got hooked while in high school.

With some marijuana products averaging 68% THC — exponentially greater than the pot baby boomers once smoked — calls to poison control centers and visits to emergency rooms have risen. In the Denver area, visits to Children's Hospital Colorado facilities for treatment of cyclic vomiting, paranoia, psychosis and other acute cannabis-related symptoms jumped to 777 in 2015, from 161 in 2005.

The increase was most notable in the years following legalization of medical sales in 2009 and retail use in 2014, according to a study in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* published in 2018.

"Horrible things are happening to kids," said psychiatrist Libby Stuyt, who treats teens in southwestern Colorado and has studied the health impacts of high-potency marijuana. "I see increased problems with psychosis, with addiction, with suicide, with depression and anxiety."

It is unclear whether all of this means years of generally stag-

nant pot use among children are coming to an end. Surveys finding little change with pot since 2014 "may not reliably reflect the impact of legalization on adolescent health," the authors of that 2018 study concluded.

As more than a dozen states consider legalizing marijuana, doctors warn of an urgent need for better education — not just of teens but of parents and lawmakers — about how the products being marketed can significantly affect young people's brain development. The limited scientific research to date shows that earlier and more frequent use of high-THC cannabis puts adolescents at greater jeopardy of substance use disorders, mental health issues and poor school performance.

"The brain is abnormally vulnerable during adolescence," said Staci Gruber, an associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School who studies how marijuana affects the brain. "Policy seems to have outpaced science, and in the best of all pos-

sible worlds, science would allow us to set policy."

The critics also insist that more must be done to maintain tight regulation of the industry. That's not been the case so far, they argue, with dispensaries opening near high schools in Seattle and with retail and medical pot shops in Denver outnumbering Starbucks and McDonald's locations combined. The bills that passed this spring in each state's legislature, with bipartisan support, aimed mostly for industry expansion or deregulation.

Some physicians liken the states' actions to a public health experiment, one that supports the cannabis industry's interests while ignoring the implications for adolescents' health.

"I hope we don't lose a generation of people before we become clear we need to protect our kids' brains," said Leslie Walker-Harding, an adolescent medicine specialist who chairs the pediatrics department at Seattle Children's Hospital. It also is seeing more

teens with marijuana-related symptoms.

The industry disagrees that potent products like crumble, budder and crystalline are a danger, saying additional studies are needed.

Existing data are "inconclusive about whether the changes that have been linked to early cannabis use are damaging in the long term," Morgan Fox, media relations director for the National Cannabis Industry Association, said in an email. "There also needs to be more research on whether potency actually has an impact on consumers."

What's not disputed is how much is on the line financially. Washington's commercial market posted a record \$978 million in retail sales in fiscal 2018, data show, which meant \$358 million in excise tax for state coffers.

Colorado's pot industry racked up even higher sales in calendar 2018: a record \$1.54 billion, which brought in \$266 million in marijuana taxes, licenses and fees.

WORLD

Hong Kong's Lam apologizes for extradition bill

By ELAINE KURTENBACH
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's embattled leader apologized Tuesday for an unpopular extradition bill that drew massive protests and indicated it will not be revived during the current legislative session.

But Chief Executive Carrie Lam did not formally retract the legislation, which would allow some suspects to face trial in mainland Chinese courts. She also said she hopes to finish her term, shrugging off calls for her resignation with repeated requests for another chance.

"Work in the next three years will be difficult, but we will work to rebuild confidence in the ... government. We have a lot to do," she said.

Lam said she did not expect to be able to win public support for the bill, seen by many in Hong Kong as a further weakening of the former British colony's legal autonomy at a time when Communist-ruled China is growing increasingly authoritarian.

"In recognition of the anxiety and fears caused by the bill in the last few months, if we don't have confidence from the people we will not proceed with the legislative exercise again," Lam said.

"I will not proceed with this legislative exercise if these fears and anxieties could not be adequately addressed," she said.

The bill ignited several massive protests, including a march by nearly 2 million people on Sunday and by as many as 1 million people a week earlier. Police used tear gas,



KIN CHEUNG/AP

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam leaves after a press conference at the Legislative Council in Hong Kong on Tuesday. She apologized for an extradition bill that ignited massive protests and said she will not proceed with the bill at this time.

steel batons and rubber bullets to subdue protesters during scuffles outside the government headquarters on June 12.

On Monday, the city's police commissioner sought to reassure the public that only those who resorted to violence or other offenses would be prosecuted. He said just

five of more than 30 people arrested were facing such charges.

Lam, who earlier had characterized the clashes on June 12 as "rioting," said she was in accord with the commissioner. She said any complaints over police behavior should be referred to a government agency

in charge of handling such problems.

Activists rejected Lam's earlier apologies for her handling of the legislation. Some scheduled news conferences for later Tuesday to respond to her latest comments.

The uproar over the extradition bill has highlighted worries that Hong Kong is losing the special autonomous status China promised it when it took control from Britain in 1997.

Scenes at the protests were similar to demonstrations in 2014, when people camped for weeks in the streets demanding direct elections of the city's chief executive, who is chosen by a pro-Beijing committee.

One concern is that the law might be used to send critics of Communist Party rule to the mainland to face vague political charges, possible torture and unfair trials.

Lam has insisted the legislation is needed for Hong Kong to uphold justice and not become a magnet for fugitives. It would expand the scope of criminal suspect transfers to include Taiwan, Macau and mainland China.

So far, China has been excluded from Hong Kong's extradition agreements because of concerns over the independence of its court and its human rights record.

The vast majority of Hong Kong residents fled persecution, political chaos or poverty and famine on the Chinese mainland. They value stability but also cherish freedoms of dissent and legal protections not allowed for people on the mainland.

Boris Johnson's UK bid gets boost from ex-rival

Associated Press

LONDON — A former candidate to lead Britain's Conservative Party threw her support behind front-runner Boris Johnson on Tuesday, bolstering his lead as lawmakers prepared to eliminate at least one contender from the race to become prime minister.

Andrea Leadsom, an ardent backer of Brexit, told BBC Radio that she's backing Johnson because "I think he will be a very good leader for our country."

Leadsom was one of three lawmakers voted out of the race to succeed Prime Minister Theresa May last week.

Johnson, a flamboyant former foreign secretary, has a commanding lead after that first round, in which he gained backing from 114 of the 313 Tory legislators. Five rivals remain, battling to secure the second-place slot that will send them into a runoff decided by all party members.

Lawmakers were to vote again Tuesday, with the lowest-placed contender dropping out of the contest, along with any who fail to get at least 33 votes.

Further rounds are set for Wednesday and Thursday if needed. The final two contenders will go to a postal ballot of about 160,000 Conservative Party members nationwide.

The winner, due to be announced in late July, will become party leader and prime minister.

May stepped down as party leader earlier this month after failing to secure Parliament's approval for her Brexit deal.

All six contenders to replace her vow they will succeed where May failed and lead Britain out of the European Union, though they differ about how they plan to break the country's Brexit deadlock.

Johnson — a leading figure in the 2016 campaign to leave the EU — says that the U.K. must leave the bloc on the scheduled date of Oct. 31, with or without a divorce deal to smooth the way.

The EU says it won't reopen the Brexit agreement it struck with May's government, which has been rejected three times by Britain's Parliament. Many economists and businesses say a no-deal exit would cause economic turmoil by ripping up the rules that govern trade between Britain and the EU.

Johnson's rivals are divided over how willing they are to contemplate a no-deal Brexit. Ex-Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab and Home Secretary Sajid Javid both say no-deal would be preferable to further delay. Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt warns it would cause "potentially severe economic disruption," and Environment Secretary Michael Gove says he would be willing to postpone Brexit further in order to secure a deal.

After Tuesday's vote by lawmakers, the remaining contenders will take part in a live



MATT DUNHAM/AP

British Conservative party leadership contender Boris Johnson has drawn the support of a former rival in his bid to succeed Prime Minister Theresa May.

television debate.

Johnson, who has been accused of trying to dodge scrutiny, declined to participate in an earlier debate on Sunday with his five rivals and also refused to take part in a question-and-answer session with political journalists on Monday.

Johnson's team is keeping him on a tight leash, wary of gaffes that could derail his campaign.

Johnson is admired by many Conservatives for his ability to energize voters, but others mistrust him for his long record of misleading and false statements, verbal blunders and erratic performance in high office.

Egypt's Morsi buried under heavy security

Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt's first democratically elected president, Islamist leader Mohammed Morsi, was buried under heavy security early Tuesday, a day after his dramatic collapse and death inside a Cairo courtroom, his family and a member of his defense team said.

Morsi's family attended funeral prayers in the mosque of Cairo's Tora prison, followed by the burial at a cemetery in the Egyptian capital's eastern district of Nasr City, said Abdul-Moneim Abdel-Magoud, a member of Morsi's defense team.

Morsi's son Ahmed said security agencies refused to allow Morsi to be buried at the family's cemetery in his hometown in Sharqia province, and instead had him interred at a Cairo cemetery dedicated to prominent Islamists.

Morsi, 67, hailed from Egypt's largest Islamist group, the now outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, and was elected president in 2012 in the country's first free elections following the ouster the year before of longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

The military toppled Morsi in 2013 after massive protests and crushed the Brotherhood in a major crackdown, arresting Morsi and many others of the group's leaders.

During his years in prison, Morsi, who was known to have diabetes, was often held in solitary confinement and was largely

barred from receiving visitors. His family was allowed to visit only three times. While in detention, Morsi continued to appear in court on a range of charges.

In early court sessions he gave angry speeches until judges ordered him kept in a glass cage where they could turn off his audio.

Morsi's Brotherhood accused the government of "assassinating" him through years of poor prison conditions. The group demanded an international investigation into Morsi's death Monday and called on Egyptians to protest outside Egyptian embassies across the world.

Late Monday, Egypt's chief prosecutor said Morsi's body would be examined to determine the cause of his death. State TV, citing an unnamed medical source, said he died after suffering a heart attack.

Morsi collapsed just after he had addressed the court, speaking from inside the glass cage and warning that he had "many secrets" he could reveal, a judicial official said, speaking on condition of anonymity under regulations.



Morsi

VETERANS: CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

A NUCLEAR SECRET

After atomic bomb blasts, a dangerous cleanup job

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON

Before he died, Army veteran Paul Laird had an urgent message for his wife, Vicki.

For nearly a decade, Laird battled to expose servicemember illnesses that followed a secret U.S. military cleanup operation of radioactive sites in the Pacific Ocean.

He didn't want his mission to end with his life.

"Please don't quit fighting; help these guys," he told her.

At least 4,000 servicemembers were dispatched in the late 1970s to clean up the fallout from U.S. atomic bomb tests conducted in the Marshall Islands several decades earlier.

In a 10-year period that ended in 1958, 43 tests were conducted at Enewetak Atoll, the ring-shaped collection of 40 coral reef islands. For the next 20 years, the contamination sat atop the atoll, 850 miles west of Hawaii.

By the 1970s, under threat of legal action by island natives, the U.S. launched a haphazard and dangerous plan to clean it up. The military would execute it.



Courtesy of Vicki Laird

Paul and Vicki Laird visit with their new grandson, Cody Paul Laird, a week before the new grandfather and atomic veteran died on March 17.

Wearing not much more than shorts, servicemembers used shovels, bulldozers and other heavy equipment to scrap radioactive materials from the islands, breathing in deadly powder along the way. The plutonium-infested debris was dumped inside a crater from a previous test at Enewetak's Runit Island.

The Enewetak Atoll cleanup veterans, many of whom faced a long list of cancers and other deadly illnesses, are mostly gone today. Groups that track them estimate there are only about 400 left today.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



A three-part series

Monday: Veterans exposed to atomic tests wage final fight for benefits, recognition.

Tuesday: For some, toxic exposure didn't end with atomic blasts.

Today: After the tests, a dangerous cleanup job remained.

For earlier stories, video and more photos, go to [strips.com/conspiracy](https://www.strips.com/conspiracy)

In the 10 years before 1958, 43 tests were conducted at Enewetak Atoll, and the radioactive debris was left behind until the 1970s when U.S. servicemembers were used to clean it up.

COURTESY OF THE
U.S. AIR FORCE/AP

About this series

During the past 10 months, Stars and Stripes reporter Claudia Grisales conducted dozens of interviews with atomic veterans and experts to tell the story of servicemember exposure to nuclear bombs since the 1940s. She reviewed hundreds of pages of government documents related to the tests, as well as publicly accessible photos and videos. We relied on veterans' personal recollections, photos and records as well as Congressional testimony and documents. Many vets and their families were interviewed about their experiences at the annual National Association of Atomic Veterans conference in Portland, Ore., in September 2018.

VETERANS: CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE



Photos courtesy of Mark Sargent

Army veteran Mark Sargent was part of the late 1970s military crew that laid down an 18-inch thick layer of cement for Runit Dome in the Pacific.

FROM PAGE 14

"We are losing them at an average of one every month to every two months," said Keith Kiefer, an Air Force veteran who participated in the cleanup operations and now runs the National Association of Atomic Veterans. "Many of them have passed away in their 50s and 60s."

Paul Laird, 62, lost his battle against his sixth cancer in March. Two months later, his wife, Vicki, 60, is still fighting for his final \$1,000 disability payment from the Department of Veterans Affairs and reimbursement to have his body cremated.

She's also carrying on his fight to force the VA to recognize his radiation-related cancers and raise his service-connected disability rating. The Enewetak Atoll veterans, unlike the atomic veterans who participated in the tests, don't get disability coverage for their toxic exposure.

"He didn't want to just help us," a fearful Vicki Laird said. "He wanted to help all his buddies."

Lojwa animals

As a high schooler in Madison, Maine, Mark Sargent was struck by a brochure showing an Army soldier carrying a rifle on one shoulder and a chain saw on the other.

Sargent and his best friend quickly signed up when they heard they could do basic training together. Sargent was only 17.

Following a brief stay at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, Sargent was sent to Enewetak in July 1979 for a six-month tour. He arrived to triple-digit heat.

"I'm just thinking, wow, I'm just a kid from Maine seeing the world," he said. "It's an incredible adventure."

The atoll, formed by the rim of a submerged volcano, is 50 miles across and marked by brilliant green and blue water. Massive puck marks were imprinted on the islets and the lagoon.

Service members were told they would aid a humanitarian mission. And they were going to be safe.

But this was no paradise, they said. For many, this place was the beginning of their living hells.

"Nothing was explained, other than we were just going to work on the islands to return it to the natives," Sargent, 59, said from his home in Athens, Maine. "It was a testing ground, and on a need to know basis. We would learn more when we got there."

Many worked 10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week, painstakingly removing six inches of topsoil from the islands. The radioactive debris was dumped at Cactus Crater, the 300-foot-long divot named for its namesake test in 1958 at Runit Island.

Sargent's job was to help police the island and pick up contaminated metals. He also worked with the crew sealing the new, radioactive dump with an 18-inch thick layer of cement.

At night, the servicemembers all bunked on Lojwa Island on the atoll's northern end. It's where an advance party set up the base camp with tents in 1977 followed by metal "hooches" labeled with names such as "Hotel California" or the "Hilton Inn."

The hooches sat on concrete pads that servicemembers say were also mixed with toxins. Lojwa also housed a makeshift movie theater, a Post Exchange, a mess hall and a chapel.

It was one of the most contaminated islands at Enewetak,

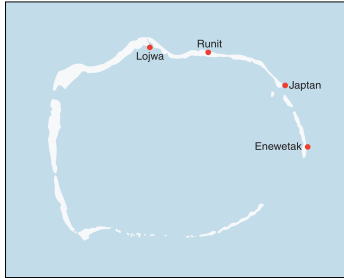


The Runit Dome is an 18-inch-thick concrete top built by U.S. servicemembers to contain radioactive soil, chunks of plutonium from misfired atomic weapons and other debris from nuclear testing on Enewetak Atoll.

Courtesy of the U.S. Defense Special Weapons Agency

Enewetak Atoll and its islands

The Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean include the Enewetak Atoll, which is home to 40 islands within its 50-mile circumference. U.S. troops participated in nuclear tests and cleanup operations here in the Pacific.



Noca Anae/Stars and Stripes



Noca Anae/Stars and Stripes

came a hobby.

Some, inspired by the fictional "M*A*S*H" character Cpl. Maxwell Klinger, tried to get kicked off the island. Sargent knew of one servicemember who collected dead rats in a bag, but that didn't work.

"Everyone knew we were in harm's way, but these were invisible bullets," he said. "It was always in the back of your mind."

The servicemembers left urine samples at the end of their tours to be tested, but they were told many of those were lost. Regardless, there were no baseline comparisons to make since tests weren't taken before their arrivals, Sargent said.

They also wore dosimeters, or radiation badges, to track contamination. But those were lost or damaged as well.

Sargent said he is one of the luckier ones. "I always thought I was going to get cancer; I just didn't know when," said Sargent, who lost Laird and at least six Enewetak Atoll vets in the last three years. "But actually, I am one of the healthier ones."

In September 1979, the Runit Dome, known locally among the natives as "The Tomb," was capped. There was no rebar or other structural support to keep the concrete from cracking, Sargent said.

It's a haunting fixture for the locals known as Marshallese and others. In May, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres delivered a harsh warning that the "coffin" of radioactive material could be leaking.

"It's going to eventually breach and go into the ocean," Sargent said. "There are big-time cracks. We never put any liners, stuff we were supposed to do."

‘Everyone knew we were in harm’s way, but these were invisible bullets. It was always in the back of your mind.’

Mark Sargent

Army veteran who helped put the concrete dome over nuclear debris on Enewetak Atoll

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VETERANS: CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

FROM PAGE 15

'I was just falling apart'

Ron Madden didn't think much of his first tooth falling out when he was 29.

But when most of his teeth fell out the next year, the former Army heavy equipment operator started to worry.

In the next three decades, Madden developed three forms of cancer, bone pain, severe joint weakness and trouble using his arms and legs.

He stopped working and his 23-year marriage failed. His memory was fading.

"I was just falling apart. I couldn't do my job anymore," the former construction worker, 62, said from his home in Westfield, Ill. "The doctors and I didn't put two and two together until after the cancer. I got to thinking, something's not right here."

Madden and his doctors realized the rash of illnesses could be linked to the year he spent at Enewetak.

In 1978, the southern Illinois native was assigned to work on Ijapan Island, pushing heavy, contaminated dirt into dump trucks bound for Cactus Crater. He took a long boat ride back and forth from Lojwa for his shifts.

There really wasn't any protective gear, Madden said. Instead, the one respirator mask he wore had to stay with his equipment for the next user. So, it collected toxic dust as it sat.

"You just did what you were ordered to do," Madden recalled. "There wasn't enough masks for everyone."

At the end of the shift, Madden would board the same boat and ride alongside the hazardous piles.

By 1990, he was diagnosed with lung cancer and lost his left lung. Although he had been a smoker until that year, his doctor said the extensive damage didn't make sense.

"My doctor said I could have smoked three packs a day and still wouldn't have that much damage," Madden said.

That year, he began applying for VA disability benefits, and he continued to do so for five years, but was denied. Madden had a 30 percent VA service-connected disability rating from a foot injury.

By 2013, he was diagnosed with throat and neck cancer, losing most of his muscle along the left side of his neck.

Today, he's lost most control of his legs, and struggles to take the simplest step.

"It's not matching up between what my brain says and what my legs do," he said.

'Within seconds of dying'

After Keith Kiefer, the Air Force veteran, came back from Enewetak, he started experiencing deep muscle and bone aches.

The symptoms seemed to come from a mysterious source. He didn't have a fever or a viral illness.

Now he believes the pain was linked to his time installing and repairing cable and phone lines on the atoll's islands.

"The doctor could never find any reason for it," said the national commander for the National Association of Atomic Veterans. At one point, a doctor even tried to suggest that it was all in his head. I became disgusted with the medical community. It was a waste of our time and limited resources."

The defense contract worker and his wife, Mary Ann, struggled to conceive children for two years.

Kiefer and Mary Ann count test before he left for Enewetak that showed he was healthy. He was tested again after Enewetak and found out he was suffering from infertility that lasted for several years.

"We basically left it in God's hands," said Kiefer, who lives north of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Twin Cities in Minnesota. "We were going to consider adopting."

His sperm count finally normalized, and the couple was able to conceive four daughters.



Courtesy of Ron Madden

Army heavy equipment operator Ron Madden in his fatigues on Janet Island 1978. During his work shifts, Madden usually wore shorts rather than protective gear.



Courtesy of Brian Cowden

Keith Kiefer became an atomic vet after participating in nuclear test cleanup operations in the Pacific Ocean and now runs the National Association of Atomic Veterans. In 2017, he spoke in Washington at "Operation Stand Together," an event meant to raise awareness of veteran illnesses resulting from hazardous exposures.

ters. Kiefer avoided doctors for years.

That is, until one evening in his early 40s, when he woke up from a strange, localized fever in his back.

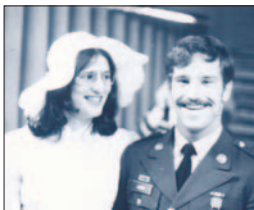
"I told my wife, 'Is it my imagination or is my back on fire?' It was like I had been lying on a heating pad," he said. "She said it wasn't my imagination."

The discovery sent him back to medical care, this time navigating a maze of possible diagnoses. Weeks later, he learned he had an autoimmune thyroid disorder and lupus anticoagulant, a clotting disorder.

Even on blood thinners, Kiefer struggles with blockages, and he's come close to death three times. The first close call came in 2010 and again in 2011 and 2012.

"I came within seconds of dying from a bilateral pulmonary embolism," he said. "Both my arteries to my lung were blocked."

He also found out he was suffering from degenerative bone disease and spinal stenosis, which causes pain in the spinal cord area. He's had both his hips replaced in recent years.



Courtesy of Vicki Laird

Paul and Vicki Laird at their wedding on Jan. 27, 1977. As a newlywed, in the final year of his Army tour, Paul Laird was sent to Enewetak Atoll. He suffered from multiple forms of cancer and became a "poster boy" for his fellow atomic veterans. Since his death in March, Vicki continues his fight for a 100 percent disability rating.

In his 40s, "I was told I had the skeletal structure of a 90-year old," he said.

Kiefer has also been diagnosed with a nondiabetic form of peripheral neuropathy, another radiation-connected illness.

Even though Kiefer receives VA medical care, he doesn't have service-connected disability benefits for his radiation-related illnesses. Last year, Kiefer was \$10,000 in debt thanks to his VA medical bills.

'Winning Megabucks'

In the final year of his Army tour, Paul Laird got on his sergeant's wrong side.

During an inspection of the 84th Atomic Battalion in Hawaii, a marijuana joint was found in a pouch near him on the ground.

Laird said it wasn't his, but his sergeant didn't believe him. Laird, a newlywed, was headed to Enewetak.

"They promised him he wouldn't go because he was a short-timer," Vicki Laird, his wife of 42 years, said. "Then they put him on the advance party to go."

It was May 1977. By day, he breathed in the toxic powdery substance during 12-hour work days. By the end of his shifts, only the white of his eyes and teeth would break up the powder coating his body.

"After I made such an issue about having a dust mask, my lieutenant at the time told me, 'Well if you're that concerned about it, just take your T-shirt off and wrap it around your head,'" Laird told Los Angeles filmmaker Brian Cowden in the 2017 documentary short "Lojwa Animals: Do Not Forget The Forgotten."

The servicemembers were told they would wear yellow suits, but Laird said he

never saw one.

As the weeks wore on, he began to suffer a mental breakdown, his wife said. He was one of the lucky ones able to cut his visit short, she said.

"He had to go get counselors and everything," she said. "When he got back, he was so distraught that he was out there and left me. Once he realized after being there and what was going on ... that got him even more upset."

The couple began their lives anew in Maine. They had two sons. In 1996, with \$200 and a loan using their home as collateral, they opened Laird's Family & Tire Service auto shop in Bridgton, Maine.

But the couple weren't done with Enewetak.

Ten years ago, Laird was diagnosed with kidney cancer.

"We started realizing, wow, it could be connected," Vicki Laird said.

After he overcame the kidney illness, he was diagnosed with bladder cancer four times, including two different forms.

"I've been told by many doctors that's like winning Megabucks," Laird said in the "Lojwa Animals" film.

When he underwent chemotherapy treatment and recovered from the bladder cancers, the family became hopeful.

But last year, he was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. He stopped working at the shop. By the time he died March 17, his body was ravaged by the disease.

In the weeks before Laird died, the couple welcomed their fifth grandson. Cody Paul Laird carries his grandfather's name, and a dying man soaked up his final moments.

"He would just hold him for hours and hours and hours, and he would talk to him, touch his little fingers and toes," a tearful Vicki Laird said from her family's auto shop. "He just wanted to live so he could watch his grandsons grow."

Paul Laird stopped traveling to Washington to push for legislation or share his story.

He was able to get VA medical care and a 60 percent service-connected disability rating for hearing loss and post-traumatic stress disorder. But he still wanted to reach 100 percent for his radiation illnesses.

"He was such an advocate, he was like a poster boy" for the Enewetak Atoll vets, his wife said. "He felt very strongly for the group, trying to get out there and get these guys recognized and seen. A lot of them don't have good insurance and medical bills. They all deserve help, and the government is not helping them."

The couple were actively lobbying Capitol Hill lawmakers to pass legislation that would allow them to seek related disability benefits.

This year, lawmakers have refiled legislation to extend VA benefits to this newer generation of atomic veterans. The Mark Twain Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act of 2019, named for a late Hawaii lawmaker, would close the gap in benefits between the atomic vets who participated in the tests and those who cleaned up the fallout.

House bill 1377, sponsored by Rep. Grace Meng, D-N.Y., and 119 other lawmakers, and a companion bill in the upper chamber, Senate bill 555, authored by Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minn., and co-sponsored by 15 more senators, have stalled since the legislation was introduced in late February.

Vicki Laird said she struggles financially since her husband died. He received \$2,800 monthly from Social Security and the VA disability benefits. That's gone now.

She says she'll continue his fight for a 100 percent disability rating, which would result in significant back payments for thousands of dollars. He filed the first claim to raise that rating with the VA about eight years ago.

"I don't want my claim to just die," she said. "He said what he was told, he was a very proud man. He loved his country. And he paid with his life."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Wildlife officials kill bear that people fed

OR SALEM — Oregon wildlife officials have killed a young black bear that people have been feeding and taking photos with.

The Statesman Journal reported state wildlife biologists determined last week that the 100-pound male bear could not be relocated because it had grown accustomed to people.

Wildlife biologists found the bear eating trail mix and other snacks left for him near Henry Hagg Lake west of Portland.

Wildlife biologist Kurt License said the bear was too habituated to people, so it posed a risk to human safety.

Unicyclist completes 180-mile trek

ME BRUNSWICK — Thousands have ridden their bicycles in the three-day Trek Across Maine. But only one participant has accomplished the feat on a single wheel.

Hugh Sharp, from Cape Elizabeth, Maine, rode 180 miles on a unicycle in the annual fundraiser for the American Lung Association, which ended Sunday. His pace was slower than the other cyclists' so he had to pedal longer.

The nurse anesthetist at Maine Medical Center was pedaling in honor of his father, who died two years ago from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

College wants wizardry school's debt to vanish

VA WILLIAMSBURG — The College of William & Mary says the masters of a wizardry school need to make a \$70,000 debt disappear.

The Virginian-Pilot reported the college says Learn Larp LLC hasn't fully paid its \$110,000 bill for hosting an adult role-playing event known as "New World Mageschola."

A \$60,000 ticket for the four-week-end camp in 2017 included meals, housing and witch or wizard robes. Campers also competed for a house trophy, similar to that in the Harry Potter novel and film series.

Scientists turn Murderkill River red

DE FREDERICA — Delaware's Murderkill River ran red last week, but it wasn't with blood.

For a few days, a portion of the Murderkill River near the Kent County Waste Water facility was spotted with a deep red hue, living up to its grim name. But news outlets reported the unusual color was actually a dye released into the water by scientists.

The Delaware News Journal said the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration led the study. The paper said researchers pumped the dye through the county's treatment facility.

The dye was then tracked and observed as it dispersed as a way



RUSS DILLINGHAM, (LEWISTON, MAINE) SUN JOURNAL/AP

Follow you, follow me

Jason Moffatt, of Bowdoin, Maine, follows his daughter, Kendall, as she rides the track at Hemond's MX & Offroad Park in Minot, Maine, on Sunday for the first time on a track. She crashed hard shortly after but eventually brushed it off and tried again.

for scientists to gauge and prepare for potential sewage spills that could endanger the state's oyster population.

Scientists said the dye isn't harmful.

Social media did in lion poachers in Yellowstone

WY JACKSON — Social media posts helped authorities find and prosecute several Montana mountain lion hunters for illegally killing a lion in Yellowstone National Park.

The Jackson Hole News & Guide reported that photos they shared via Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook, including publicly accessible images, were deleted, but not before other hunters recognized the landscape and alerted game wardens.

Austin Peterson, Trey Junhke and Corbin Simmons, all from Livingston, Mont., pleaded guilty to illegally killing the lion.

On May 3 a federal judge ordered the three to pay restitution, sentenced them to three years of unsupervised probation and stripped them of their hunting and fishing privileges for three years.

Woman accused of faking kidney transplant jailed

IA GRUNDY CENTER — A woman accused of faking a kidney transplant has been imprisoned for an unrelated theft in eastern Iowa.

The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier reported that Shawn Marie Tomkins, 46, was sentenced to

THE CENSUS

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the Deerfield Beach International Fishing Pier. The previous record was a team of 614 divers in the Red Sea in Egypt in 2015.

The number of divers who scooped up trash from the ocean floor off a South Florida beach, setting a Guinness World Records milestone for largest underwater cleanup.

Guinness adjudicator Michael Empirc on Saturday counted scuba divers as they entered the ocean near

five years in prison. She must also pay restitution.

Prosecutors say Tomkins, also known as Shawn Marie Eastman Adams, took people to a farm in 2017, selling them items that she falsely said were hers.

She's also awaiting trial in Black Hawk County on theft and other charges. Prosecutors say she got nearly \$58,000 in aid from a Waterloo couple after telling them she had a kidney transplant, tumors and other medical problems.

Prosecutors say she accused one of one of them of sexually abusing her son when the couple discovered her scam.

Police: Woman crashed, said she's Hello Kitty

RI PAWTUCKET — Police in Rhode Island said a Massachusetts woman who flipped her car onto its roof after striking a home identified herself to investigating officers as Hello Kitty.

Police said Karina Dominguez Martinez, 25, struck the concrete stairs of a vacant Pawtucket home about 1 a.m. Saturday before rolling. A witness told WPRI-TV she was driving erratically with her

lights off just before the crash. Dominguez Martinez, of Worcester, Mass., gave her name as Hello Kitty and was treated at the scene for scrapes and bruises. Police said she had open bottles of sangria in her car.

She was charged with driving under the influence and resisting arrest. She was released on her own recognizance pending arraignment.

Rescuers airlift dog, owner from tide pools

HI HONOLULU — A hiker and his injured dog were airlifted to safety by a Honolulu Fire Department helicopter, officials said.

The man and a woman were hiking Saturday with his labrador/golden retriever mix at the Makapu'u tide pools on Oahu. The Honolulu Star Advertiser reported. The dog's feet were cut while hiking down a cliff to the tide pools and the animal could not return to the top.

The fire department was alerted at 10:40 a.m., and by 11:30 a.m. the owner and dog were in the helicopter, fire department Capt. Scot Seguirant said.

Police: Man brought gun, ammo to school

NJ WESTFIELD — A Delaware man found outside a New Jersey elementary school with a loaded gun and additional ammunition is facing charges.

Union County prosecutors said police went to the Tamaquex school in Westfield just before 4 p.m. Thursday after authorities in Delaware told them a man later identified as Thomas Wilkie was headed there and might be armed. Classes had already concluded, but the school went on lockdown because after-school activities were taking place.

Authorities said Wilkie, 46, had a 45-caliber handgun loaded with hollow-point bullets and two more loaded clips of ammunition on him when he was arrested. They said 130 additional rounds were found in his SUV.

Museum to highlight Lincolns' romance

IL SPRINGFIELD — Abraham Lincoln history buffs will have the chance to learn more about the courtship and marriage of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is hosting tours over the summer that will let visitors learn about their unexpected romance. It's called "Abe and Mary: Quite Contrary."

The free tours will be offered Tuesdays and Wednesdays until Aug. 7.

From wire reports

FACES

Stars extol positivity at MTV Awards

BY KATIE CAMPIONE
Associated Press

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson didn't make a household name for himself by conforming to someone else's idea of whom he should be, an approach he encouraged others to take while accepting a top honor at the MTV Movie & TV Awards.

The actor, producer and former professional wrestler said embracing himself allowed him to carve his own space in the entertainment industry and become one of its biggest stars. He gave his speech while accepting MTV's generation award during the show, which was taped June 15 in Santa Monica, Calif., and aired Monday night.

"The most powerful thing we can be is ourselves," said Johnson, who is half-black and half-Samoan. He also reminded the audience of its responsibility to reach back for others in the midst of success.

Johnson, 47, wasn't the only one to use his platform during the show for empowerment.

Brie Larson, who won the best fight award for her battle against Minn-Erva (Gemma Chan) in "Captain Marvel," brought her stunt doubles, Joanna Bennett and Renae Moneymaker, on stage to recognize them for their work.

"They are the living embodiment of Captain Marvel," Larson said as she stepped aside to let the women give speeches.

Inclusivity and celebration seemed to be the themes of the night. Show host Zachary Levi reminded everyone to nurture the kid in themselves and keep following their dreams into adulthood.

Lana Condor managed to bring thoughtfulness to one of the night's more amusing awards.

"Kiss who you want to kiss. Love who you want to love, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise," she said, accepting the best kiss honor with "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" co-star Noah Centineo, who also won for breakthrough performance.

Jade Pinkett Smith awarded the trailblazer award, presented to her by "Girls Trip" co-star Tiffany Haddish, and assured attendees that each of them are trailblazing by leading the way and fighting for others.

Women took home several of the night's biggest awards, including best performance in a show (Elisabeth Moss, "The Handmaid's Tale") and in a movie ("Lady Gaga," "A Star Is Born"). The show features gender-neutral categories.

Sandra Bullock touched the audience during her speech for most inspired performance for "Bird Box." The Oscar winner said she made the film for her kids after they asked when she would make a movie for them.

Bullock said that when her kids are old enough to watch the post-apocalyptic thriller, she hopes it will show them the lengths she is willing to go for them.



Sneaking into Hollywood

Duo behind 'Last Black Man in San Francisco' found outsider's path to making Broadway film

BY LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

It's an unusually chilly and overcast Sunday in Los Angeles when the San Francisco filmmaking team and longtime friends Jimmie Fails and Joe Talbot meet for a rooftop brunch a few days after their hometown premiere of "The Last Black Man in San Francisco."

"It's like it knew we were coming," Fails said, laughing.

But the Northern California chill was perhaps the ideal setting. After all, "The Last Black Man in San Francisco" isn't exactly a 72 and sunny kind of movie.

It's a beautiful, poetic story about family, gentrification and the meaning of home and ownership from the minds of two total newcomers that has captivated the film world.

The film is the culmination of more than five years of work for Fails, 24, and Talbot, 28, who met as teens in the public park that separated their neighborhood, discovered a shared love of film and filmmaking and "haven't stopped talking since."

But while both knew they wanted to make films, they didn't have any useful or current connections (Talbot's grandfather, Lyle Talbot, was a B-movie actor in the '30s and '40s, and later the films of Ed Wood). Neither went to film school. Fails left college after his first year, Talbot dropped out of high school and the San Francisco filmmaking scene wasn't as vibrant or accommodating to indie newcomers as it had been in the past. In an attempt to get some sort of advice, Talbot cold-emailed filmmaker Barry Jenkins, who at the time had only made "Medicine for Melancholy," asking for advice on how to start.

Jenkins told them what he knew — yes, you need a script — and even gave them notes before he headed off to make "some movie in Florida" that would turn out to be best picture winner "Moonlight."

So Fails wrote a script based on his own ex-

periences with losing his grandfather's Victorian home in the Fillmore district, which he would continue to visit frequently even though it no longer belonged to his family. They made a concept trailer, did a Kickstarter campaign and even got a short film directed by Talbot into the Sundance Film Festival. That's where things started to get real. It was in Park City, Utah, that they met with Brad Pitt's production company Plan B, who wanted to make "The Last Black Man in San Francisco." Plan B also got the support of A24, who would help finance and distribute, and suddenly it was go-time with the very people who made "Moonlight" leading the way.

"For years and years we're working on it and refining it like, 'Someone give us a chance! Someone give us a chance!' And then they go, OK, and we're like, 'Wait, are we ready? I don't know if we're ready yet,'" Talbot said. "It's the hardest city in the country to film in. It used to be a very film-friendly city, but it's just gotten hard, especially for an ambitious indie like ours."

But they were more ready than they realized. Talbot would direct, and Fails would star as his own alter-ego, also named Jimmie Fails. They had most of their crew in place too: A lot of San Francisco friends they'd worked with before who knew the city and were ready to commit as fully as Talbot and Fails to this passion project. For Jimmie's best friend, Mont, they found actor Jonathan Majors — another revelation who is just starting to make a name for himself in the business.

"I was the last piece to kind of come in," Majors said, who was still able to weigh in on and tweak his character. "The collaboration was beautiful. We're rallying behind humanity in this piece, you know, and it's deep ... This is man versus society and it's a heavy role to play."

They also got San Francisco native Danny Glover to the role of Mont's blind grandfather.

"It was important to get as many San Franciscans as we could," Fails said. "We're doing this for the city. We don't want it to feel inauthentic."

Haddish cancels show, compares law to slavery

From wire services

Tiffany Haddish delivered some bad news June 15 to her Georgia fans: The comedian couldn't in good conscience tell jokes onstage in Atlanta because of the state's new "heartbeat bill," which would effectively ban abortions.

"After much deliberation, I am postponing my upcoming show in Atlanta," Haddish said in a statement to ticket holders, according to CNN. "I love the state of Georgia, but I need to stand with women and until they withdraw Measure HB481, I cannot in good faith perform there."

Governor Brian Kemp last month signed the measure, which prohibits abortions after the detection of a fetal heartbeat, which can occur as early as six weeks into pregnancy. Since then, several big-name celebrities and Hollywood production companies have vowed to boycott the state unless the law, which is set to go into effect in 2020, is repealed. Georgia is the third largest film and TV production hub outside of Los Angeles and New York.

Haddish told TMZ on Sunday that her decision to postpone her Atlanta show "wasn't tough at all."

"If I can't have control of my body and if no other woman can have control over her body, why would I perform there?" Haddish said. "I don't know how it's going to be solved to be honest with you, but what I do know is slavery is not OK. I read that bill and it looks like new slavery to me."

Other news

■ The late Mexican-American superstar singer Jenni Rivera is getting a biopic. Jenni Rivera Enterprises said Tuesday it has partnered with production companies Mucho Mas Media and De Line Pictures to develop a film based on the life of the woman known as the "Diva de la Banda." Rivera died in December 2012 in a plane crash at age 43. The film is being written by screenwriter Kate Lanier, who also wrote "Set It Off" and the Tina Turner biopic "What's Love Got To Do With It."

■ Megadeth's Dave Mustaine says he has been diagnosed with throat cancer. The singer and guitarist of the heavy metal band announced the news on social media Monday. The 57-year-old says Megadeth has to cancel "most shows this year." Mustaine adds he and his bandmates, David Ellefson, Kiko Loureiro and Rick Verbeuren, are in the studio working on a new album.

■ Former Hearst CEO Frank Bennack is working on a memoir. Simon & Schuster announced Tuesday that Bennack's "Leave Something on the Table: And Other Surprising Lessons for Success in Business and in Life" will come out in October.

■ Charles Reich, the author and Ivy League academic who wrote "The Greening of America," has died. He was 91.

After more than five years of work, longtime friends Jimmie Fails, left, and Joe Talbot have their film "The Last Black Man in San Francisco" in theaters stateside.

PHOTO BY TAYLOR JEWELL, INVISION/AP

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OPINION

Big business has no business weighing in

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN
Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

In early 2017, Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick opened the legislative session by prioritizing a measure that would have required people in Texas to use the bathroom of their biological sex in public schools and state and local government facilities.

The bill was controversial. It enjoyed a surprising amount of public support. And it failed, as I believe it should have.

I wrote at the time that it was unnecessary and antithetical to the Obama administration, which had made pushing controversial progressive social policies a mission during its waning years. As on its way out, and Republicans at the state and national level would be better served pursuing a more productive agenda strengthening protections of religious freedom, for example.

But one of the most convincing arguments against the bill — the one that probably tipped the scales — was that the law would damage the Texas economy. If the bill passed, the state would be perceived as bigoted, and companies that would be otherwise attracted to the economic environment would take their business elsewhere. The Texas Association of Business estimated the legislation could cost the Lone Star State between \$964 million and \$8.5 billion and more than 100,000 jobs.

At the time, I found that argument compelling, especially when it opposed a piece of legislation that would in practice

be impossible to enforce and in reality would have very little discernible effect on the health and safety of Texans. But the undue influence of the corporate world — through threat of boycott and economic blackmail — to disrupt the democratic process has accelerated. And it's starting to make me angry.

As columnist and editor Tim Carney explains in *The Washington Examiner*, big business has been teaming up with the political left in a coordinated assault against views it considers unacceptable. And in nearly every case, this powerful coalition seeks to strangle and quash perspectives that are — no surprise — conservative.

Freedom of conscience. Restrictions on abortion. Issues that divide the country, that are often complex and nuanced and should be addressed through an open and transparent democratic process, deserve no such hearing in the eyes of this unholy alliance.

Big businesses joined Democrats in declaring "it unacceptable for states to even allow individual small businessmen the freedom of conscience," writes Carney, referring to the Supreme Court case involving a Colorado baker who didn't want to make a specialty cake for a gay couple's wedding.

Major companies such as Disney, NBC Universal and Netflix are threatening to boycott Georgia if the state's new law restricting abortion goes into effect. "These incredibly powerful firms have concluded that the pro-life position is beyond the bounds of acceptable debate," Carney con-

tinues. Indeed, these corporate leaders have determined that they are America's moral compass.

This past week, executives from 180 large corporations joined forces to rebuke anti-abortion measures in state legislatures around the country by issuing a joint statement under the odd title "Don't Ban Equality." If it's about workplace equality, why aren't they threatening bans of states that fail to provide paid maternity leave?

Liberals have complained in the past that business has unfettered power to exert influence in politics. It was the left that rallied against the Supreme Court decision in the *Citizens United* case, which broadened corporate speech protections. Yet those on the left are very happy to join big business in its efforts to exert economic harm on states that pass laws with which they disagree.

Which brings us to a second irony: that the business world appears blissfully unfazed that half of the country — presumably half of their employees and clientele, as well — do not agree with positions adopted by corporate America. Abortion is no exception. And for all their self-righteous condemnation, big businessmen seem unconcerned that the negative effects of their boycotts and other economic tactics will fall disproportionately on poor and minority populations of the states they target.

Corporate America is no longer in the pocket of "country club" Republicans. It's on board with the "woke" left.

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Coverage of Biden feeds the 'electability' delusion

By MARGARET SULLIVAN
The Washington Post

As Iowa journalist Robert Leonard talks to voters around his state, he finds himself baffled at the national media's coverage of Joe Biden's dominance in the presidential campaign.

The local Democrats he encounters respect the former vice president, he told me, but many of them also feel his time has passed. They're far more excited about other candidates, five in particular: Sen. Elizabeth Warren, of Massachusetts; Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Ind.; Sen. Kamala Harris, of California; former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke; and Sen. Cory Booker, of New Jersey.

So he shakes his head at the extensive coverage and commentary that depicts Biden as the national media's pick for a nomination that's more than a year away.

One example: CNN's morning briefing newsletter recently called Biden "the most formidable threat" to President Donald Trump's reelection chances.

CNN is far from alone. It's common across the national media to see Biden pegged as the safest candidate for Democrats to put up to unseat Trump. He's got that secret sauce: electability.

"Sure, Democrats think he's electable, but they believe a half-dozen other candidates are, too," Leonard, the news director of two Iowa radio stations, told me. "No one I have spoken with sees Biden as more formidable than other top candidates."

But this thinking — much of it driven by early polling — creates a self-perpetuating effect: Biden is the front-runner, so he gets more media coverage.

"Joe Biden has done something no other Democrat has been able to do in this race: Command attention from all cable networks, and have them stream his entire event live," Washington Post political reporter Matt Viser tweeted last week during Biden's Iowa visit.

That coverage decision captures the

electability delusion in action — and it cuts both ways.

Was Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez seen as electable?

Certainly not. Not until the Democrat rolled to victory last year in her New York City primary against entrenched incumbent Rep. Joseph Crowley and soon afterward became the youngest woman ever elected to Congress. Some news outlets didn't even have her photograph available on election night, and *The New York Times*, her hometown newspaper, hadn't written a full profile of her during the campaign.

Was Hillary Clinton seen as electable? More than electable, she was inevitable — the crowning queen of 2016, from about 2013 on. Until, of course, she wasn't.

"So-called electability is no more a science than astrology. Indeed, it is often little more than calcified prejudice," Boston-based political activist Jonathan Cohn wrote recently.

One lesson, seeing Biden this way is understandable. The former vice president is out front in poll after poll. On another level, it's downright unfair to other candidates at this early stage — and it may be dangerous to the Democrats' quest to unseat Trump.

Salon's Amanda Marcotte finds it troubling to see Trump going after Biden with nicknames and other attacks, but not because she feels sorry for the former vice president. No, her theory is that Trump — with his unerring instinct for steering the media caravan — is focusing on Biden because he knows the former vee may be relatively easier to beat.

"Biden's cut from his big mouth, his age and out-of-touchness, and his handsiness sets him up to be beset with a 'both sides are the same, so don't vote' campaign targeting the same voters who sat out 2016," she tweeted.

When I followed up with her, Marcotte wrote me: "I don't have a problem with calling him the front-runner at all, since that's just a fact, but I do think it's unfair

to take his political argument for himself ('electability') as a fact instead of an opinion/argument." (The Washington Post has decided, for now, not to use the term "front-runner" for Biden in its news coverage, according to an all-newsroom memo in May from National Editor Steven Ginsberg, "given the continuing volatility among the candidates at this early stage." Some other news organizations are showing similar restraint.)

Wasn't former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush looking pretty electable early in the 2016 Republican primary campaign? Conversely, before the 2008 election, weren't pundits bemoaning the "electability" of Barack Obama, who was ready to elect a black president?

Wrong, and wrong again. For months now, I've heard network news chiefs, and political editors and reporters of all stripes, insist that it would be difficult this time: Less horse race, more listening to American people's concerns.

To their credit, there does seem to be more effort to talk to voters in the field, all across the country, not just in the Acacia corridor of New York to Washington. Certainly, campaign staffs are bigger than ever at many news outlets. But that often leads to more horse-race coverage rather than a deeper understanding of communities.

The excitement about the latest polls puts all that reporting effort in the background — even though it's too early for polls to be very meaningful, at least when forecasting the general election. Combine that with the unquenchable thirst for a narrative, a simple story to satisfy the needs of news consumers, and before you know it, you've got the pseudoscience of electability.

The truth is that journalists and pundits are bad at predictions. They should have learned that when Trump — a candidate so manifestly unsuited to be president that he couldn't possibly win — blew their minds by doing just that.

Margaret Sullivan is The Washington Post's media columnist.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Domino's to start delivering pizza via robot

By PETER HOLLEY
The Washington Post

For months now, the robotics company Nuro has been using electric, self-driving vehicles to deliver groceries to Kroger customers in Phoenix and Houston.

Now, the Silicon Valley startup's autonomous, unmanned vehicles — which resemble a giant pill bug on wheels and can reach 25 mph as they operate on major roadways alongside cars — will be on a new mission: delivering Domino's pizzas to customers.

Nuro's latest challenge will be limited to customers who place online orders in Houston, a sprawling metropolis crisscrossed by traffic-clogged highways. The company deployed its grocery delivery service in Houston in March. Nuro's partnership with Domino's initially will be limited to a single location and



Courtesy of Nuro

Domino's and Nuro are joining forces on autonomous pizza delivery using the custom unmanned vehicle known as the R2.

will begin in the fall.

With a narrow frame about half the width and half the weight of a typical car, Nuro's vehicles lack seats, steering wheels or room for human occupants. The company claims the narrow frame gives

the vehicle more space to navigate around obstructions and a few more feet of safety buffer to avoid a collision if someone pulls out of a driveway suddenly or steps out from between parked cars.

"We are always looking for new

ways to innovate and evolve the delivery experience for our customers," Kevin Vasconi, Domino's executive vice president and chief information officer, said in a statement released by the company. "Nuro's vehicles are specially designed to optimize the food delivery experience, which makes them a valuable partner in our autonomous vehicle journey."

"The opportunity to bring our customers the choice of an unmanned delivery experience and our operators an additional delivery solution during a busy store rush is an important part of our autonomous vehicle testing," the statement added.

The human delivery driver may soon become a relic of the past as technology companies rush to automate food delivery, which remains a modern-day gold mine of sorts.

On college campuses around

the country, food deliveries via robot are becoming an increasingly common sight.

After a fleet of 25 delivery robots from the San Francisco Bay Area startup Starship Technologies descended on George Mason University's campus in January, campus officials recorded a spike in breakfast orders.

During the first day of deliveries at GMU, the machines were flooded by so many dinner orders that school officials had to pull the plug.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 19)	\$1.1493
Dollar buys (June 19)	69.8701
British pound (June 19)	\$1.28
Japanese yen (June 19)	106.80
South Korean won (June 19)	1,154.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2530
Canada (dollar)	1.3393
China (yuan)	6.9104
Denmark (krone)	6.6676
Egypt (pound)	16.7609
Euro	\$1.1198/0.8930
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.8330
Hungary (forint)	238.31
Israel (shekel)	3.6100
Japan (yen)	106.82
Kuwait (dinar)	0.3043
Norway (krone)	8.7350
Philippines (peso)	51.92
Poland (zloty)	3.80
Saudi Arabia (riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (dollar)	1.3682
South Korea (won)	1,175.13
Switzerland (franc)	1.0006
Thailand (baht)	31.25
Turkey (lira)	5.8265
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom or nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federals funds market rate	3.37
3-month bill	2.17
30-year bond	2.58

Facebook plans own currency for 2 billion-plus users

By RACHEL LERMAN
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Facebook already rules daily communication for more than 2 billion people around the world. Now it wants its own currency too.

The social network unveiled an ambitious plan Tuesday to create a new digital currency similar to Bitcoin for global use, one that could drive more e-commerce on its services and boost ads on its platforms.

But the effort, which Facebook is launching with major partners including PayPal, Uber, Spotify, Visa and Mastercard, could also

complicate matters for the beleaguered social network. Facebook is currently under federal investigation over its privacy practices and, along with other technology giants, also faces a new antitrust probe in Congress.

Creating its own globe-spanning currency — one that could conceivably threaten banks, national currencies and the privacy of users — isn't likely to dampen regulators' interest in Facebook.

The digital currency, called Libra, is scheduled to launch sometime in the next six to 12 months. Facebook is taking the lead on building Libra and its underlying technology; its more

than two dozen partners will help fund, build and govern the system. Facebook hopes to raise as much as \$1 billion from existing and future partners to support the effort.

Company officials emphasized Libra as a way of sending money across borders without incurring significant fees, such as those charged by Western Union and other international money transfer services. Libra could also open up online commerce to huge numbers of people around the world who currently don't have bank accounts or credit cards.

"If you fast forward a number of years, customers all over the

world will have the ability to access the world economy," Facebook executive David Marcus told The Associated Press.

MARKET WATCH

June 17, 2019

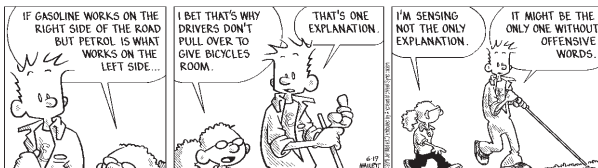
Dow Jones Industrials	22.92
	26,112.53
Nasdaq composite	48.37
	7,845.02
Standard & Poor's 500	2.69
	2,889.67
Russell 2000	10.25
	1,532.75

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

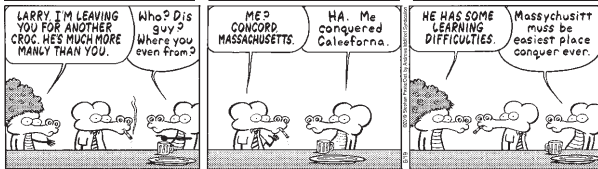
Frazz



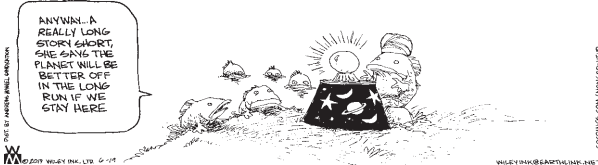
Dilbert



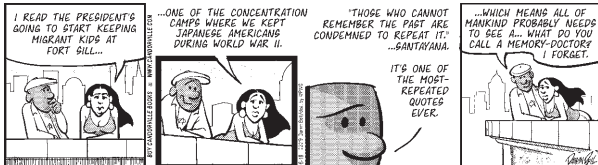
Pearls Before Swine



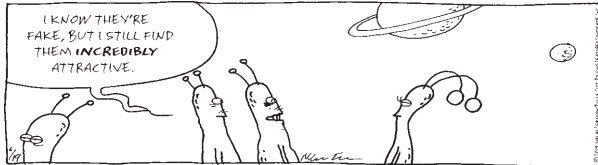
Non Sequitur



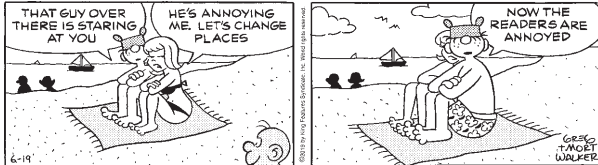
Candorville



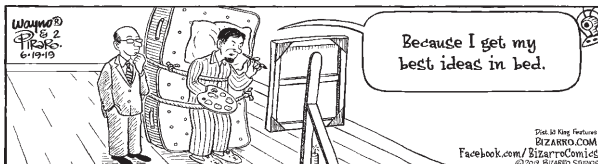
Carpe Diem



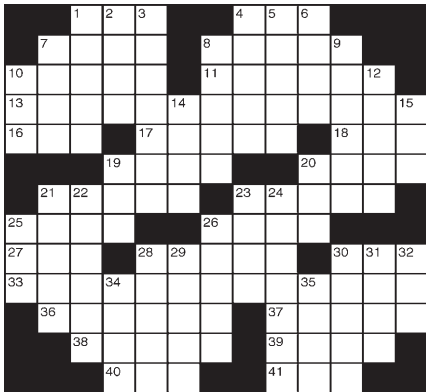
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Big mouth
- 4 Scoundrel
- 7 Actress Rogers
- 8 Underneath
- 10 Choir member
- 11 Loves to pieces
- 13 Woven containers
- 16 Raw mineral
- 17 Levels
- 18 Cistern
- 19 Pet food brand
- 20 Feel sorry for
- 21 Answers an invitation
- 23 Sandbox toys
- 25 Dandies
- 26 Billions of years
- 27 Simile part
- 28 Egypt's Mubarak
- 30 Pallid
- 33 Company codes used at a stock exchange
- 36 Journalist Bly
- 37 Bakery smell
- 38 Japanese wrestlers
- 39 Minnelli of "Arthur"

DOWN

- 1 Chop finely
- 2 Out of control
- 3 Spy's device
- 4 Fragrant wood
- 5 At — for words
- 6 Dweeb at sea
- 7 Israel's Golda
- 8 Innocents
- 9 Cotton pest
- 10 Tango team
- 12 Sports figures breaking gp.
- 14 Eyeglass frames
- 15 Pigs' digs
- 19 Hosp. hookups
- 20 Math ratios
- 21 Cello bow application
- 22 Parking spots
- 23 Shetland, for one
- 24 Cracker shapes
- 25 Corpulent
- 26 Road curves
- 28 Big wheels
- 29 Hunter in the sky
- 30 Lighthouse
- 31 Mater lead-in
- 32 Code-breaking gp.
- 34 Heidi of "Project Runway"
- 35 Vivacity, in music

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-19

CRYPTOQUIP

W O F W B M B F P H F D D X T F

I P I P D H P Q F X L H F N P Q P J D F . X

W O X L T W O F E ' Q F N Q M J P J D E

X L P H P J D F Q F D P W X M L H O X N .

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHAT SHOULD YOU SAY WHEN A YOUNG CHILD FAILS AT FASTENING HIS SHOELACES? "TIE, TIE AGAIN."

Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals W


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- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

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Announcements 040

Automotive 140

Autos for Sale Germany 142

Entertainment 450

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.
Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- ❑ Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- ❑ People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

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Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

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Stay connected and hey, welcome to the neighborhood.

SCOREBOARD

Sports
on AFS

Go to the American Forces
Network website for the most
up-to-date TV schedules.
myafn.net

College baseball

World Series

At Omaha, Neb.
(Double elimination; necessary)

Saturday, June 15

Florida 5, Texas Tech 3

Michigan 3, Arkansas 0

Sunday, June 16

Vanderbilt 6, Louisville 1

Mississippi State 5, Auburn 4

Monday, June 17

Texas Tech 5, Arkansas 4, Arkansas

eliminated Michigan 2, Florida State 0

Tuesday, June 18

7 — Louisville (69-17 vs. Auburn

(38-27)

Game 8 — Vanderbilt (55-11 vs. Missis-

sippi State (52-13)

Wednesday, June 19

Game 9 — Texas Tech (45-19 vs. Flori-

da State (42-27)

Thursday, June 20

Game 10 — Game 7 winner vs. Game

8 winner

Friday, June 21

Game 11 — Michigan (47-20) vs. Game

9 winner

Saturday, June 22

Game 12 — Game 8 winner vs. Game

10 winner

Championship Series

Monday, June 24: Pairings TBD

Tuesday, June 25: Pairings TBD

Wednesday, June 26: Pairings TBD

Thursday, June 27: Pairings TBD

Friday, June 28: Pairings TBD

Saturday, June 29: Pairings TBD

Sunday, June 30: Pairings TBD

Monday, July 1: Pairings TBD

Tuesday, July 2: Pairings TBD

Wednesday, July 3: Pairings TBD

Thursday, July 4: Pairings TBD

Friday, July 5: Pairings TBD

Saturday, July 6: Pairings TBD

Sunday, July 7: Pairings TBD

Monday, July 8: Pairings TBD

Tuesday, July 9: Pairings TBD

Wednesday, July 10: Pairings TBD

Thursday, July 11: Pairings TBD

Friday, July 12: Pairings TBD

Saturday, July 13: Pairings TBD

Sunday, July 14: Pairings TBD

Monday, July 15: Pairings TBD

Tuesday, July 16: Pairings TBD

Wednesday, July 17: Pairings TBD

Thursday, July 18: Pairings TBD

Friday, July 19: Pairings TBD

Saturday, July 20: Pairings TBD

Sunday, July 21: Pairings TBD

Monday, July 22: Pairings TBD

Tuesday, July 23: Pairings TBD

Wednesday, July 24: Pairings TBD

Thursday, July 25: Pairings TBD

Friday, July 26: Pairings TBD

Saturday, July 27: Pairings TBD

Sunday, July 28: Pairings TBD

Monday, July 29: Pairings TBD

Tuesday, July 30: Pairings TBD

Wednesday, July 31: Pairings TBD

Thursday, Aug. 1: Pairings TBD

Friday, Aug. 2: Pairings TBD

Saturday, Aug. 3: Pairings TBD

Sunday, Aug. 4: Pairings TBD

Tennis

Birmingham Classic

Monday

Edgobston Priory Club

Birmingham, England

Surface: Grass-Outdoor

Singles

First Round

Margarita Gasparova, Russia, def. El-

ina Sirtolina 6-4, Ukraine, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, def. Aryna Sab-

alenko Belinky 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (3).

Barbora Strýcová, Czech Republic, def.

Helder Watson, Britain, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Joyanna Konta (7), Britain, def. Anett

Kontaveit, Estonia, 6-4, 6-2.

Evgeniya Rodina, Russia, def. Kristina

Mladenovic, France, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

Karina Pliskova (3), Czech Republic, def.

Mihaela Buzarescu, Romania, 6-3,

6-4.

Doubles

First Round

Ash Bartley, Australia, and Julia Go-

ergers, Germany, def. Kaitlyn Chro-

stian, Slovenia, and Daria Jurak, Slo-

venia, 6-3, 6-4.

Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, and Ga-

lina Voskoboeva, Kazakhstan, def. Sarah

Beth Grey and Eleni Sili, Britain, 6-0,

6-7 (3), 10-8.

Qiang, China, and Dayana Yastremska,

Ukraine, def. Gabriela Dabrowski,

Canada, and Xu Yifan (1), China, 6-4,

7-6 (4).

Nadia Kichenok, Ukraine, and Abi-

gail Spekreijjs, United States, def. Harriet

Bart, Britain, and Verena Williams, United

States, 4-6, 7-6 (3), 10-7.

Queen's Club Championships

Monday

At The Queen's Club

London

Purse: \$23.3 million (ATP500)

Singles

First Round

Daniil Medvedev (4), Russia, def. Fer-

nando Verdasio, Spain, 6-4, 6-3.

Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, def. Grigor

Shargwartzman, Argentina, def. Al-

exandro Bublik, Kazakhstan, 7-6 (2), 6-3.

Martin Cilic (5), Croatia, def. Cristian

Garin, France, 6-1, 7-6 (5).

Nicolas Mahut, France, def. Frances

Tiafoe, United States, 6-3, 7-6 (5).

Kevin Anderson (2), South Africa, def.

Cameron Norrie, Britain, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4.

John Isner, U.S., def. James Ward, Brit-

tain, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (2).

Doubles

First Round

Bob and Michael Bryan (4), United States,

def. Luke Bambridge and Jonny O'Mara,

Britain, 7-6 (1), 6-4.

Malorca Open

Monday

Tennis at the Santa Ponsa

Malorca, Spain

Surface: Grass-Outdoor

Singles

First Round

Alya Tomljanovic, Australia, def. Monica

Puig, Puerto Rico, 6-4, 7-5.

Wang Yafan, China, def. Anna-Lena

Friedsam, Germany, 7-5, 6-3.

Katerina Siniakova (8), Czech Republic,

6-2, 6-6.

Bella Bencic (3), Switzerland, def.

Rebecca Peterson, Sweden, 7-5, 6-4.

Sofia Kenin (7), United States, def. Kir-

sten Flipsberg, Belgium, 6-2, 6-3.

Elise Mertens (4), Belgium, def. And-

rea Petkovic, Germany, 6-2, 6-2.

Halle Open

Monday

At Gerry Weber Stadion

Halle, Germany

Purse: \$23.3 million (ATP500)

Singles

First Round

Steve Johnson, United States, def. Phil-

ipp Kohlschreiber, Germany, 6-3, 6-3.

Radu Albot, Moldova, def. Matthew

Ebden, Australia, 5-7, 6-1, 6-4.

Pierre-Hugues Herbert, France, def. Ga-

el Monfils (5), France, 7-6 (6), 6-4.

Joao Sousa, Portugal, def. Peter Bur-

kacz, Poland, 7-6 (3), 6-1.

Karen Khachanov (3), Russia, def. Dan-

iel Dapkin, Belarus, 6-3, 6-4.

Robert Bagnall, Germany, 6-2, 6-2.

Alexander Zverev (2), Germany, def.

Robin Haase, Netherlands, 6-4, 7-5.

Pro basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

W L Pct GB

Connecticut Sun 8 1 889 —

Washington Mystics 7 2 825 1

Indiana Fever 4 5 571 3

New York Liberty 3 5 529 4

Atlanta Dream 2 6 467 5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W L Pct GB

Las Vegas Aces 4 4 571 —

Los Angeles Sparks 3 5 529 1

Minnesota Lynx 2 6 467 2

Dallas Wings 1 7 367 2

Sunday's games

Connecticut 81, Seattle 67

Las Vegas 80, Minnesota 75

No games scheduled

Washington at Los Angeles

Indiana at Atlanta

Chicago at New York

Soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

W L T Pts GF GA

Philadelphia 8 7 3 27 21 28

D.C. United 4 6 6 23 18

Atlanta 3 7 6 15 13

New York 7 6 6 24 27 19

Orlando City FC 5 6 6 21 17

Toronto FC 5 6 4 19 26 25

New England 5 5 6 16 13

Chicago 4 6 6 18 24 23

Columbus 5 9 2 17 16 24

Houston 3 7 6 15 17 17

Cincinnati 3 11 1 11 14 33

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W L T Pts GF GA

Los Angeles FC 9 6 1 28 22 13

Seattle 7 4 5 26 21

Kansas City 7 4 4 24 21

FC Dallas 4 6 4 22 22

San Jose 4 6 4 22 22

Real Salt Lake 6 8 1 19 21 27

Portland 7 8 4 16 17 23

Vancouver 4 6 6 18 17 20

Spokane 3 6 7 16 26 27

Colorado 3 5 6 15 24 34

Portland 4 7 2 14 19 26

Note: Three points for victory, one

point for tie.

Saturday, June 22

LA Galaxy at Cincinnati

Real Salt Lake at Chicago

United States at Portland

Colorado at Vancouver

Sunday, June 23

Sporting Kansas City at Columbus

NWSL

W L T Pts GF GA

Washington 5 2 1 16 8 5

Utah 4 2 1 13 16 8

San Diego 3 2 4 13 17 9

North Carolina 3 2 4 13 17 9

Houston 3 2 3 12 10 11

Portland 2 4 1 7 10 16

Reign FC 2 1 5 11 8 9

San Jose 1 4 1 6 10 16

Orlando 0 7 2 2 4 19

Note: Three points for victory, one

point for tie.

Saturday's games

Portland 1, North Carolina 1, tie

Orlando 2, Houston 2, tie

San Jose 1, San Diego 1, tie

Washington 1, Reign FC 1, tie

Sunday, June 23

NHL/COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

USA Hockey produces crop of draft prospects

By JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — John Wroblewski wasn't entirely sure what he was getting into in 1997 as a member of the inaugural group of players selected to participate in USA Hockey's National Team Development Program.

Nor could he have envisioned during those humble beginnings how much the program would eventually evolve.

Some 22 years later, Wroblewski coached the Under-18 team and played a key role in helping produce a bumper-crop class of elite prospects eligible to be selected in the NHL Draft at Vancouver, British Columbia, this weekend.

"Every day, you drive in and coast past the flag on the way to your parking spot ... and you kind of pinch yourself at what's been fostered," Wroblewski said by phone recently, referring to the program's headquarters in Plymouth, Mich. "It's unfathomable what's occurred."

Led by center Jack Hughes, who has a chance of becoming the eighth American-born player selected first overall and first since Toronto drafted Auston Matthews No. 1 in 2016, the NTDP has the potential of having a program-record six players taken in the first round.

Though alumni include Matthews, Chicago's Patrick Kane and Buffalo's Jack Eichel, the program has never had more than three players selected in the first

round immediately after completing their two-year terms.

Reflecting on the team assembled from a five-day tryout camp in March 2017, the 38-year-old Wroblewski knew there was something special about this group.

"We had the team picked on Saturday night, when the camp was going to break on Tuesday morning," he recalled. "When that separation point was quite apparent at the time, we knew what we had."

Hughes is NHL Central Scouting's top-ranked North American prospect after setting a two-year NTDP record with 228 points (74 goals, 154 assists). Centers Alex Turcotte and Trevor Ziegler are ranked fourth and sixth.

Though under-sized at 5-foot-7 and 162 pounds, winger Cole Caulfield is ranked eight after scoring an NTDP-record 72 goals this season. And the list of potential first-round selections are rounded out by left winger Matthew Boldy and defenseman Cameron York.

That's not all. A total of 10 NTDP players are ranked among Central Scouting's top 50 North American prospects, and that doesn't include Spencer Knight, the bureau's top-ranked North American goalie.

The 18-year-olds finished this season with a record of 48-16 and won the bronze medal at the world championships, while outscoring their opponents by a combined 369-188.



PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

American Jack Hughes is the top-rated NHL Draft prospect.



PHOTOS BY NATHAN HARRIN/AP

Michigan starting pitcher Tommy Henry throws to first on a pick-off attempt during the fifth inning of Monday's game against Florida State in Omaha, Neb. Henry through a complete-game shutout.

CWS roundup

Wolverines ride Henry's 3-hitter past Seminoles

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Jesse Franklin hit the second pitch of the game out of TD Ameritrade Park. With the performance Tommy Henry was about to give, that was all the offense Michigan needed.

Henry limited Florida State to three hits and Franklin's homer stood up in a 2-0 win Monday night that put the Wolverines in control of Bracket 1 in their first appearance at the College World Series since 1984. The Wolverines (48-20) are 2-0 for the first time in six appearances since 1962 and need one more win Friday to reach the best-of-three finals next week.

"In the biggest game in Michigan baseball history in a long, long time, we got the best pitching performance in Tommy Henry's career," Michigan coach Erik Bakich said. "He was the entire story line tonight. He gave us something magical. I don't know if there is an adjective to describe how good Tommy was, but he was better than that."

Henry (11-5) was efficient in his second shutout of the season and Michigan's ninth. The junior left-hander mixed a slider and changeup with his fastball and threw 100 pitches, including 24 first-pitch strikes against the 32 batters he faced. He struck out 10, walked none and went to three ball counts just twice, both times in the first inning.

The defense also was outstanding, with Christian Bullock making big plays in left field and second baseman Ake Thomas diving to rob Robby Martin of a hit in the ninth inning.



Texas Tech's Cameron Warren scores what turned out to be the winning run against Arkansas on a triple by Cody Masters during the eighth inning on Monday. Texas Tech eliminated Arkansas 5-4.

"Pure joy," Henry said, describing his feeling after the last out. "I'm sure everyone was feeling the exact same way. And so whether you were in the bunker all game or you hit a home run the second at-bat of the game, everyone is feeling that pure joy just because it's a special team. We're playing for each other, and we're playing for the block 'M' on our hat."

The Seminoles (42-22), trying to win retiring coach Mike Martin's first national championship in his 17th trip to Omaha, have scored only two runs in their last 26 innings, although they managed a 1-0 victory over Arkansas on Saturday. They failed to win their first two games at a CWS for a 13th straight time since opening 2-0 in 1989.

Texas Tech 5, Arkansas 4: At Omaha, Neb., Cody Master's first triple of the season drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning. Taylor Floyd held off the Razorbacks in the ninth and the Red Raiders stayed alive.

No. 8 national seed Texas Tech (45-19) bounced back from a 5-3 loss to Michigan and face Florida State in an elimination game.

No. 5 Arkansas (46-20) was eliminated in two games a year after making it to the CWS finals. Masters' winning hit came after Cody Scroggins (3-2) struck out Tech star Josh Jung but walked Cameron Warren with two outs. Masters then launched Scroggins' low fastball into right-center. The ball bounced off the wall, allowing Warren to score and Masters to reach third.

SPORTS BRIEFS/WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Briefly

Rangers acquire Trouba from Jets for Pionk

The New York Rangers sped up their rebuilding effort Monday by acquiring offensive-minded defenseman Jacob Trouba from the Winnipeg Jets.

New York sent young defenseman Neal Pionk and the 20th overall pick in the draft to Winnipeg for Trouba. The 25-year-old gives the rebuilding Rangers a legitimate top-pairing blue liner to help their climb back toward being playoff contenders.

"When we're out there trying to improve the team, we're looking for players that will fit into what we're doing," Rangers general manager Jeff Gorton said on a conference call Monday night. "Does it accelerate it? We'll see. But we're certainly getting a really good player that we've coveted for a while. It fits with what we're doing, and we'll see where it takes us."

Trouba is a restricted free agent who needs a new contract, which shouldn't be a problem for the Rangers. Gorton and agent Kurt Overhardt spoke after the trade and agreed to talk later this week. "I have an idea of what I think it will take," Gorton said of signing Trouba. "We move forward with complete confidence that we can get a deal done."

The Jets didn't have that confidence or the desire to sign Trouba long term. So they listened to offers around the league and opted to take this one from the Rangers before the draft this weekend.

Trouba has 177 points in 408 regular-season NHL games. Last season, the right-handed shooter had eight goals and 42 assists for 50 points and averaged just under 23 minutes a game.

In other NHL news:
■ The Tampa Bay Lightning have re-signed defenseman Braydon Coburn to a \$3.4 million, two-year deal.

The 34-year-old had four goals and 19 assists in 74 games last season when he averaged 17.08 of ice time.

■ The Philadelphia Flyers continued to shore up their defense by acquiring veteran Justin Braun from the San Jose Sharks for two draft picks.

Philadelphia on Tuesday sent a 2019 second-round pick and 2019 third-round pick to San Jose for Braun. The Sharks were looking to clear salary-cap space after re-signing defenseman Erik Karlsson for \$9.2 million over eight years.

France detains Platini in 2022 Cup probe

PARIS — French police investigating whether corruption played a role in the stunning decision to award the 2022 World Cup to the desert nation of Qatar took former soccer superstar and top executive Michel Platini into custody Tuesday for questioning.

Platini's representatives denied any wrongdoing on his part, saying he is "absolutely confident in the future" and has "strictly nothing to reproach himself for."

— Associated Press

Scoreboard

First round

x-advanced to second round

GROUP A						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
x-France	3	0	0	7	1	9
x-Norway	2	1	0	6	3	6
Nigeria	1	2	0	2	4	3
South Korea	0	3	0	1	8	0

GROUP B						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
x-Germany	3	0	0	5	0	9
x-Spain	1	1	1	3	2	4
x-China	1	1	1	2	1	4
South Africa	0	2	0	1	4	0

GROUP C						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
x-Italy	2	0	0	7	1	6
Brazil	1	1	0	5	3	3
Australia	1	1	0	4	4	3
Jamaica	0	2	0	0	8	0

GROUP D						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
x-England	1	0	1	2	1	4
x-Japan	1	0	1	2	1	4
Argentina	0	2	1	1	1	1
Scotland	0	2	1	0	4	0

GROUP E						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
x-Netherlands	2	0	0	4	1	6
x-Canada	1	0	1	2	1	3
New Zealand	0	1	0	0	1	0
Cameroun	0	2	1	1	4	0

GROUP F						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
x-United States	2	0	0	7	1	6
x-Sweden	2	0	0	7	1	6
Thailand	0	2	0	1	18	0

GROUP G						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Sweden 2, Chile 0						
United States 13, Thailand 0						
Sweden 5, Thailand 1						
United States 3, Chile 0						

GROUP H						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Sweden vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP I						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP J						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP K						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP L						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP M						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP N						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP O						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
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France vs. United States						

GROUP P						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
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GROUP Q						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
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France vs. United States						

GROUP R						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
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France vs. United States						

GROUP S						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
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France vs. United States						

GROUP T						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
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France vs. United States						

GROUP U						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP V						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP W						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP X						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP Y						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP Z						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP AA						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP AB						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP AC						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP AD						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP AE						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP AF						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP AG						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP AH						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						
France vs. United States						

GROUP AI	
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MLB

Roundup

Tanaka fans 10 in 2-hitter against Rays

Associated Press

NEW YORK — At the start of a tough week for his team, Masahiro Tanaka made things look easy on the mound against the Tampa Bay Rays again.

Tanaka pitched a career-best two-hitter with 10 strikeouts for his fourth major league shutout, and the New York Yankees beat Tampa Bay 3-0 on Monday night to increase their slim lead in the AL East. “You could tell he could smell the finish line,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. “Big-time performance to kick off this series for us.”

DJ LeMahieu hit a two-run homer off Yonny Chirinos, and Cameron Maybin went deep in his career-high third consecutive game. That was all a dominant Tanaka (5-5) needed while throwing 76 of 111 pitches for strikes in New York’s first complete game since his gem at Tampa Bay last July.

Edwin Encarnacion received an enthusiastic ovation from fans in his Yankees debut after being acquired from Seattle in a trade late Saturday night. Bating fifth as the designated hitter, the veteran slugger went 0-for-4.

“He is very excited to wear the uniform,” he said through a translator.

New York won the opener of a three-game series and moved 1½ games ahead of second-place Tampa Bay. Once the Rays leave town, AL West-leading Houston arrives for four games.

Tanaka retired his first nine batters before Austin Meadows singled sharply off the right-field wall to start the fourth. A two-out single in the fifth by Willy Adams was Tampa Bay’s only other hit.

Padres 2, Brewers 0: Manny Machado homered and doubled a few hours after appealing a one-game suspension handed down by MLB, and left-hander Jose Lucchesi threw seven solid innings in a combined four-hitter as host San Diego beat Milwaukee.

Machado was suspended one game and fined for “aggressively arguing and making contact” with plate umpire Bill Welke after being ejected for arguing a called third strike at Colorado on Saturday night. Machado said he didn’t make contact with Welke. He can continue to play until there’s a final decision.

Giants 3, Dodgers 2: Tyler Beede allowed one run in six innings to earn his first big league victory and visiting San Francisco defeated first-place Los Angeles in the opener of a four-game set between the NL West rivals.

Giants first baseman Pablo Sandoval left the game in the fifth after baserunner Max Muncy stepped on his right hand. Sandoval’s pinky finger appeared to be out and bleeding.

Angels 10, Blue Jays 5: Justin Upton homered on the first pitch he saw in his return from the injured list, Mike Trout had a solo homer among his four hits and visiting Los Angeles used a seven-run second inning to beat Toronto.

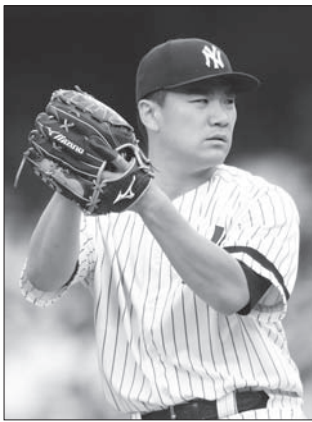
Shobei Ohtani and Kole Calhoun also connected in the second for the Angels, who have won all four matchups with Toronto this season.

Trout finished a triple shy of the cycle. He flew out in the first, doubled in the second, singled in the fourth, homered in the sixth, and singled again in the eighth.

Reds 3, Astros 2: Nick Senzel returned from an eye injury and drove in a pair of runs and Luis Castillo pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning, leading host Cincinnati over Houston. Castillo (7-1) allowed a pair of singles and walked a career-high six batters, leaving with two on and no outs in the seventh. Shortstop Jose Peraza’s throwing error let a run, and Michael Brantley doubled home another.

Cardinals 5, Marlins 0: Dexter Fowler and Matt Carpenter homered to back a strong outing by Miles Mikolas and lead host St. Louis over Miami.

Castillo (5-7) snapped a career-high losing streak of five straight decisions. He had not won a game



SARAH SYER/AP

Yankees starter Masahiro Tanaka pitched a career-best two-hitter with 10 strikeouts against the Tampa Bay Rays on Monday in New York.

since May 6 against Philadelphia. Mikolas went six innings, scattering six hits and striking out four.

It was the 13th time the Marlins have been shut out in their 45 losses this season.

Rangers 7, Indians 2: Lance Lynn had another quality start, Danny Santana homered and host Texas spoiled Mike Clevinger’s return from the injured list.

Lynn (8-4) struck out nine without a walk and gave up one run over seven innings.

Santana hit a two-run homer after Willie Calhoun’s two-out walk in the fourth. Clevinger was done after consecutive two-out walks in the fifth, with both of those scoring to make it 5-1 when Elvis Andrus doubled on reliever Tyler Clippard’s second pitch.

Red Sox 2, Twins 0: Rick Porcello pitched seven shutout innings for visiting Boston to outduel Minnesota ace Jose Berrios.

The Red Sox stretched their winning streak to a season-high six straight games.

Porcello (5-6) allowed only four hits and one walk with eight strikeouts.

Berrios (8-3) struck out 10 batters in a season-high eight innings, with five hits and no walks allowed. An RBI single by J.D. Martinez in the first was the only run he allowed. Xander Bogaerts gave the Red Sox insurance with an RBI double in the ninth.

The Red Sox (.40-34) moved a season-high six games above .500 by handing the highest-scoring team in the major leagues its second shutout of the year. The Twins (.47-24) have their fifth two-game losing streak of the season. They’ve yet to lose three in a row.

Athletics 3, Orioles 2: Mike Fiers pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning and host Oakland took advantage of Baltimore’s shoddy defense.

Oakland took a 3-2 lead in the second on catcher Chance Sisco’s two-run throwing error. The A’s loaded the bases with no outs when Josh Phegley was hit by a pitch, Marcus Semien walked and Matt Chapman reached on an infield hit. Shortstop Jonathan Villar then fielded Matt Olson’s grounder and got the force at home on Phegley, but Sisco threw wide of first trying for a double play, allowing Semien and Chapman to score.

Royals 6, Mariners 4: Jorge Soler hit a two-out, two-run homer in the eighth inning off Anthony Bass, and visiting Kansas City snapped a nine-game losing streak to Seattle.

Martin Maldonado added a solo home run in the ninth.

For the third straight start Seattle used an opener before letting Tommy Milone take over and the results continued to be mixed. The Mariners’ openers have struggled — this time Taylor Scott, who allowed two runs and recorded two outs — but Milone has thrived. In his three appearances where Seattle has used an opener, Milone has pitched 17½ innings and allowed five earned runs.

Braves stay hot, mash the Mets

By GEORGE HENRY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Mike Soroka knows he doesn’t have to pitch perfectly when the Atlanta Braves keep scoring runs so often.

“Everything’s just hard-hit baseball after hard-hit baseball,” Soroka said. “It’s contagious. It carries out to the mound for all of us.”

Soroka won his eighth straight decision, Ozzie Albies homered and drove in four runs, and the surging Braves beat the New York Mets 12-3 on Monday night.

Nick Markakis hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the fifth inning and Brian McCann reached five times and homered as the NL East-leading Braves improved to 13-3 in June, best in the majors this month.

Atlanta, which scored 15 runs a day earlier against Philadelphia, has played 90 runs in winning 10 of its last 11 — the best run of offense Atlanta has had over 11 games since 2006.

“Everyone’s having just really good, solid at-bats,” Braves manager Brian Snitker said. “The takes are good. They’re not missing on pitches and getting good decisions on them. Everybody is just geared up and focused on their at-bats.”

New York continued to struggle on the road, losing for the 12th time in 16 games away from Citi Field and dropping 8½ games behind the Braves.

Soroka (8-1) gave up three runs, six hits and allowed just his third homer in 12 starts this year, a solo shot by Robinson Cano in the sixth. He walked one and struck out two in six innings.

Soroka’s winning streak is the longest in the majors by a pitcher under 22 since Dontrelle Willis won the same number for the 2003 Florida Marlins, but the right-hander has given up eight

earned runs over his last two starts, the same total he allowed over his previous eight outings from April 29-June 7. His ERA rose 20 points to 2.12.

“The last couple of times I haven’t had the best feel for my slider, and a lot of times that’s the pitch we need for some strikeouts,” Soroka said. “But you keep attacking. It was good with the sinker and the changeup today. You’re still going to keep them off balance and you’re going to get outs.”

Atlanta went up 5-2 in the fifth on Markakis’ opposite-field bloop single to left and Albies’ RBI single.

The Braves led 2-0 in the first. Ronald Acuna Jr., the 2018 NL Rookie of the Year, hit his 17th homer, the 11th of his career to begin a game and the 22nd to begin an inning. Freddie Freeman singled and scored from second on first baseman Pete Alonso’s fielding error.

New York cut the margin in the third when Alonso lined an RBI single to left. The Mets tied it at 2-all in the fifth on pitcher Zack Wheeler’s RBI single to left and made it 5-3 on Cano’s fourth homer.

Wheeler (5-5) allowed five runs — four earned — and 10 hits in six innings.

Reliever Jeurys Familia, whose ERA stands at 16.50 over his last six innings, was charged with three of the four runs that crossed in the seventh, turning a 5-3 deficit into a blowout. Albies lined a two-run single to right to begin the scoring.

“We just stunk,” New York manager Mickey Callaway said. “Again, we weren’t good. We’ve got to recalibrate what we’re doing and we have to do the job better. That’s just plain and simple.”

McCann and Albies homered in the eighth.



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

The Braves’ Ronald Acuna Jr. follows through on a solo home run as New York Mets catcher Wilson Ramos looks on during the first inning of Monday’s game in Atlanta.

NBA

Police: 4 shot, 3 arrested at Raptors rally

By ROB GILLIES
AND IAN HARRISON
Associated Press

TORONTO — Gunfire broke out and a stampede ensued as fans celebrated at a rally Monday for the NBA champion Raptors, leaving four people shot and thousands fleeing less than a block from where the players and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sat on stage.

Three people were arrested and two guns were recovered, Toronto police said, and investigators did not discuss a possible motive for the attack.

Dozens of Raptors fans ran from the shooting in a stampede from the City Hall square, which was packed with tens of thousands of people. Earlier Monday, well over a million fans packed downtown Toronto for a parade for the Raptors, raising concerns about safety and overcrowding as the city celebrated its first major sports title in more than a quarter-century.

Police Chief Mark Saunders said four people suffered gunshot wounds but said none of the injuries were life-threatening. Others suffered minor injuries as they tried to get away from the shooting, said Saunders, who asked for witnesses and people who might have video to come forward and help investigators.

Andrew Singh said he heard what appeared to be gunshots and that a woman was wounded before people started scrambling.

"We just saw the girl drop to the ground and the gun running off," the 29-year-old said. "All I heard was, 'pop pop pop'."

Asked if it was a targeted shooting or terrorism-related, police spokeswoman Allison Sparkes said the investigation was ongoing.

During a speech from one of the team owners, the host of the rally interrupted the proceedings to alert the crowd to an emergency and asked for calm. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Toronto Mayor John Tory, NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard and other players were among those on stage at the time.

"I want to make sure everyone stays calm," said the host, sportscaster Matt Devlin. "This is serious. Everyone stay calm ... There is an emergency being declared."

Those on stage remained in place and speeches resumed shortly after.

Mike Muddi said he was enjoying the celebration when he heard screams behind him that someone had pulled out a gun. He said he from as people started running in all directions.

"I just grabbed my buddies' hands and ran," he said.

Raptors fan Phil D'Souza said the violence left a bad taste in his mouth, and he questioned whether he would attend a similar event in the future.

"You couldn't see the shooter but it was that kind of chaos where you're just expecting to see somebody coming around the corner. It was that kind of vibe," D'Souza said.

Another fan said the stampede was scary.

"When you see a bunch of people coming at you, you don't know what to do, whether to run or not. You don't want to get stampeded over," Sam Sunday said.

There were at least four abandoned strollers in the square, indicating parents may have grabbed their children and run. Shoes, clothing and bags were left behind. An entire nearby intersection was cordoned off with police tape.

Tory, the mayor, thanked police for their quick response and said he was angered by the shooting.

"It is disappointing and I'm sure a source of anger for more than just me that anyone would carry a gun and discharge it at what was otherwise a joyous celebration," Tory said in a statement. "I hope those found responsible will be held to account to the full extent of the law permits. I want to commend and thank the millions of other people who happily and peacefully celebrated our beloved Toronto Raptors."

Tory had urged every city resident to come celebrate the Raptors' first championship and declared Monday as "We The North Day," after the franchise's slogan.

"Toronto, more than a million of us flooded the streets today to celebrate our Raptors," city councilman Joe Cressy tweeted.

"People of all every age, every race, every religion — our City. As awful as the shooting was and terrifying for many in the crowd afterwards, don't let it take away from our moment."

As the parade inched forward — discernibly behind schedule — a number of Raptors could not help but marvel at the fan response.

"It's been amazing," Leonard said. "Thank you, Toronto, thank you, Canada, for the support. We did it."

Several fans were seen carrying signs imploring Leonard to re-sign with the Raptors. He will be a free agent this summer.

Kyle Lowry, the team's longest-tenured player, hoisted the Larry O'Brien Trophy while his teammates smoked cigars.

"This is unbelievable," he said.



Mavericks President of Basketball Operations Donnie Nelson, left, is joined by Tim Hardaway Jr., center, and Courtney Lee at a news conference in January. Nelson is one of the pioneers of European scouting.

Mavs' Euro plan illustrates draft's international flair

By SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

DALLAS — The roots of Donnie Nelson's discovery of Dirk Nowitzki grew from helping make Lithuania relevant on the world basketball stage.

The Dallas Mavericks personnel guru is one of the NBA pioneers of European scouting. Nowitzki is retiring after the big German's record 21 seasons with the same franchise, and the Mavs hope two young European stars will help lead them into a new age of prosperity.

Now that Nelson has paired Kristaps Porzingis of Lithuania's neighboring country, Latvia, with first-year phenom Luka Doncic, he figures to be a spectator for most of Thursday's NBA Draft — an event that has had an international flavor for years.

"When he made his entree with the Lithuanians and became intimately involved with that country and their national team and so forth, that changed a lot of things," said former Phoenix Suns owner Jerry Colangelo, another executive who was ahead of his time with the NBA and Europe. "I just think he deserves a lot of credit for paving the way."

Many have joined the path since.

San Antonio has had far more success than Dallas with significant Euro help, winning four titles with point guard Tony Parker of France, taken late in the first round in 2001.

The other parts of the Big Three for those championships were Argentina's Manu Ginobili, an early second-round choice in 1999, and Tim Duncan. The No. 1 overall pick in 1997 was technically an international player since he's from the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Toronto, which beat Golden State for the franchise's first championship Thursday, has five international players from five countries, not to mention team president Masai Ujiri. There were more than 100 international players on season-opening rosters for the fifth straight year.

When the Warriors took Sarunas Marculionis in the sixth round of a much longer draft 32 years ago, international picks were much less frequent. This year, there were 47 foreign players who considered early entry before withdrawing.

Draft-eligible players from former Soviet republics are routine now, the latest notable entry being Giga Batizadze of Georgia. It was unheard of 30 years ago when Nelson, then an assistant with Golden State, was trying to get Marculionis out of Lithuania around the time the Soviet Union was breaking up.

From that effort, Nelson turned into one of the architects of a Lithuanian team that won bronze in the

1992 Olympics in Barcelona, the first time NBA players were allowed to compete.

Nelson's Euro reputation was later cemented by Nowitzki, who led the Mavericks to their only championship and is the highest-scoring foreign-born player in NBA history.

The Mavericks weren't alone in their interest in the smooth-shooting 7-footer, particularly after Nowitzki's standout showing against a U.S. team in a youth all-star event packed with scouts. But Nelson and his dad, former coach Don Nelson, were building that relationship early, just as the younger Nelson was a decade earlier with Marculionis.

"I was lucky," Nelson said. "I think a lot of folks for the right reasons just didn't see the wall ever coming down. I was too dumb and lucky. And I just knew after growing up in the (Boston Celtics) locker room with my dad and (John) Havlicek and (Dave) Cowens and going to practices, I knew what the NBA player walked and talked and looked like."

The Mavericks traded down to get Nowitzki 21 years ago. Securing Doncic illustrated how much things have changed.

The Slovenian, who was 19 on draft day and had been playing with pros in Spain for years, topped Nelson's draft board because he possessed the skills of a point guard and the size of a forward.

Dallas had the fifth pick. When Doncic was still there at No. 3, the Mavericks gave this year's first-round choice to Atlanta, which got the fifth overall pick in high-scoring point guard Trae Young. This year, Nelson doesn't have a pick until No. 37 overall.

Doncic's standout season — he's the favorite to win rookie of the year honors later this month — led to the addition of Porzingis when the Mavericks sent 2017 first-round pick Dennis Smith Jr., another point guard, to New York for the 7-3 Porzingis before the trade deadline in February.

The Mavericks haven't won a playoff series since winning the title eight years ago. They're looking for a return to relevance in a way that seems appropriate given Nelson's history: Two Euro stars, plus whatever Dallas can get in free agency.

"It's by coincidence, kind of by surprise, kind of exciting," director of player personnel Tony Ronzone said. "Donnie's very open-minded and I think it's due to both our travels and seeing the world that you learn to respect cultures, you learn to respect teams. Now the game's changed where these coaches believe in these European kids."

"Barcelona kind of opened the door in a big way where many of the young European players started to believe that they could at least compete on the same floor," Colangelo said. "Although they weren't quite ready for prime time, they were very close. I could feel it coming."

They are ready now.

Just take a look around the NBA.

NBA DRAFT

Pair of Duke freshmen best option at forward

By Aaron Beard
Associated Press

The NBA Draft is like the college basketball season; it's all about Zion Williamson.

The Duke freshman was the biggest star the college game has seen in years with his breathtaking dunks and incomparable athleticism. Now he's the unquestioned choice to go No. 1 in Thursday's NBA Draft.

Williamson headlines a deep group of forwards, which includes fellow Blue Devils freshman RJ Barrett and Virginia's De'Andre Hunter as potential high lottery picks.

Here's a look at the top prospects:

Zion Williamson, Duke

The Associated Press national player of the year could be a franchise-changing talent.

STRENGTHS: The 6-foot-7, 285-pound Williamson blends size, strength and nimble moves in a rarely seen package. Beyond the highlight-reel dunks, he was practically unstoppable in the open court and when he put the ball on the floor in the paint, both with a quick step to bypass defenders and the strength to overpower them. Williamson averaged 22.6 points and 8.9 rebounds while shooting 68%, and was a good — even dazzling at times — passer. He's also a willing defender who can cover a lot of ground, wrestle in the paint and protect the rim (1.8 blocks).

CONCERNS: Not much. The popular theory is to sag off considering he made just 33.3% from three-point range last season, though he was much better both after Jan. 1 (39.6%) and in four NCAA Tournament games (7-for-17, 41.1%). He must improve at the line after making just 64% of his free throws.

RJ Barrett, Duke

Barrett joined Williamson in Duke's powerful 1-2 punch and could go third overall.

STRENGTHS: The 6-foot-7, 202-pound Barrett led the Atlantic Coast Conference at 22.6 points to go with 7.6 rebounds and 4.3 assists. The lefty is a pro-ready scorer who can attack the paint, hit from midrange or step outside. Barrett was an AP first-team all-American with an ACC single-season freshman scoring record with 850 points — the second best total by any player in Duke history.

CONCERNS: Barrett must improve as a three-point shooter

(30.8%) to fully stretch defenses. He also shot 66.5% at the foul line, including a critical miss in the final seconds of the NCAA Elite Eight loss to Michigan State. And at times Barrett's aggressiveness worked against him, such as when he had three shots blocked in the paint in the final minute of the loss to Gonzaga in the Maui Invitational championship.

De'Andre Hunter, Virginia

The versatile redshirt sophomore could go in the top five.

STRENGTHS: The 6-7, 225-pound Hunter was ACC defensive player of the year and the National Association of Basketball Coaches' national defensive player of the year with his inside-out ability. He isn't flashy but is a steady offensive presence (15.2 points, 52% shooting, 43.8% on threes), including hitting the overtime-forcing three in Virginia's win against Texas Tech in the NCAA championship game. And if there's any question about Hunter's value, consider this: the Cavaliers won 66 of 71 games over two seasons with Hunter in the lineup and lost the only game without him (that shocker against 16th-seeded UMBC in the 2018 NCAA Tournament).

CONCERNS: Hunter had dominant stretches last season, but he's unselfish and can blend into the background when needing to be more assertive. He is still refining his overall offensive game.

Others to watch

■ **Darius Bazley, Syracuse:** The 6-9 forward is tough to project after passing on a season at Syracuse, then reversing course on playing in the G League in favor of draft training.

■ **Sekou Doumbouya:** The 6-9, 230-pound forward is a lottery prospect with two-way potential and positional versatility. He played last season in France's top pro league and offers intriguing upside with his ability to run the floor and shooting touch, but he's only 18 and needs time to develop.

■ **Rui Hachimura, Gonzaga:** The 6-8 junior has length and athleticism that could land him in the back half of the lottery. He averaged 19.7 points and 6.5 rebounds, though he'll need to improve his outside shot.

■ **Cameron Johnson, North Carolina:** The 6-8 graduate student is a first-round prospect offering immediate perimeter help with a soft stroke that had him ranked seventh nationally in three-point percentage (.457).

■ **Nassir Little, North Carolina:** The 6-6 freshman is another late-lottery prospect with impressive athleticism and physical tools (including a 7.1 wingspan). He flashed at times with an aggressive style and shows defensive potential, though he'll need to improve his outside shot and refine his feel for the game with experience.



TNS

If he's still on the board when the fourth pick of the draft rolls around, Texas Tech's Jarrett Culver, right, could wind up in New Orleans.

One: Pelicans expected to take Williamson No. 1

FROM BACK PAGE

The ability to make that first pick this year "gives a boost to our franchise right away," Gentry said. "We're going to end up with a really good basketball player."

The 6-foot-7, 285-pound Williamson was just the second freshman to be a consensus national player of the year, along with Kevin Durant with Texas in 2007. While Williamson has yet to exhibit consistent outside shooting, he has displayed a dominant mix of power, quickness and skill that has convinced scouts of his extraordinary promise as a pro.

And this draft could have enormous, long-term implications for New Orleans even beyond the addition of Williamson because of the bounty of first-round draft choices the Pelicans are to receive from the Los Angeles Lakers as part of the Davis deal.

The trade — which also sent a total of three first-round picks to the Pelicans — won't become official until after the new NBA league year begins July 6. But when the Lakers pick fourth overall, they will effectively select for the Pelicans and eventually will send that player to New Orleans — unless that pick is moved in a subsequent trade on behalf of the Pelicans by draft night. And while deciding whether to select Williamson isn't bound to cause any mental anguish or second guesses, deciding who to pick fourth overall could be a much tougher call.

Gentry noted that while most drafts have just a few elite prospects, there often are future stars mined from mid- to late-first-round picks — never mind a second top-five choice like New Orleans has acquired.

"There is the high end, front end of the draft, but there's going to be a guy that's drafted 14 to 25 that's going to be a game changer also," Gentry said. "It's happened almost every year and that's where Steve Nash and Kobe Bryant and Giannis (Antetokounmpo) and those guys were all drafted — in that area right there. So, somewhere along the line, there's going to be some surprise guys that'll step up that's going to become really good basketball players."

A handful of prospects stand out as possible fourth overall picks, and the position they play could be a factor.

The Davis trade brought New Orleans highly regarded small forward Brandon Ingram, point guard Lonzo Ball and shooting guard Josh Hart. Ball and Ingram would be presumed starters alongside veteran guard Jrue Holiday and Williamson at power forward. The only true center on the roster is Jahlil Okafor. Forward Julius Randle also can play center, but is essentially a free agent with a player option to return for next season. Christian Wood, a 6-10 forward who thrived in his short, late-season stint with the Pelicans, also could play center.

Texas' Jaxson Hayes (6-11, 220) is widely seen as the top center in the draft, but not necessarily a top-five talent, so free agency might be the more practical route for the Pelicans to pursue an upgrade there.

Three players widely projected among picks Nos. 4-6 are Vanderbilt point guard Darius Garland (6-2, 175), Texas Tech shooting guard Jarrett Culver (6-7, 194), and Virginia wing player De'Andre Hunter (6-7, 225).



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Duke forward RJ Barrett drives to the basket past Virginia Tech forward Kerry Blackshear Jr., left, and guard Ahmed Hill during the second half of an NCAA East Regional semifinal on March 29.

SPORTS



Three-hit shutout
Michigan blanks Florida State behind
Henry's complete game » **CWS, Page 26**

NBA DRAFT

One question

Who will Pelicans take 4th overall?

By **BRETT MARTEL**
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS

Now that six-time All-Star Anthony Davis' trade request has been honored, it's time for the New Orleans Pelicans to start a new era by drafting the next face of the franchise.

Duke star Zion Williamson is widely seen as the top pro prospect to enter any NBA Draft since Davis in 2012, and the Pelicans

— thanks to an unlikely NBA Draft lottery victory last month — have the right to select him first overall on Thursday night.

While new Pelicans executive vice president of basketball operations David Griffin and coach Alvin Gentry have declined to announce their draft intentions, Gentry chuckled when describing the pressure to get the decision right as “Really very little. Minimal, OK? I think we'll make the right decision.”

SEE ONE ON PAGE 31

The New Orleans Pelicans are expected to take Duke's Zion Williamson with the No. 1 pick in the NBA Draft.

GERRY BROOME/AP

Inside: Mavs illustrate draft's international flair, Page 30

Tanaka strikes out 10 as Yanks beat Rays » MLB, Page 29

